

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

HOUSE BILL 4281

By: Sneed

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to game and fish; amending 29 O.S. 2021, Section 5-203.1, which relates to spotlighting; allowing the spotlighting of coyotes; allowing the use of night vision equipment to hunt coyotes; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 2021, Section 5-203.1, is amended to read as follows:

A. No person may attempt to take, take, attempt to catch, catch, attempt to capture, capture, attempt to kill, or kill any deer, feral animal or other wildlife except fish ~~and~~, frogs and coyotes by the use of a vehicle mounted spotlight or other powerful light at night, by what is commonly known as "headlighting".

Provided, however, nothing in this section shall prevent one from possessing a .22 caliber rimfire rifle or .22 pistol and a light carried while in pursuit of furbearers with hounds during the legal, open furbearers season, while possessing a valid hunting license.

Furthermore, any person may use enhanced night vision equipment to

1 attempt to take, take, attempt to catch, catch, attempt to capture,
2 capture, attempt to kill, or kill any coyote.

3 B. Any person may use a shotgun, using No. 6 size shot or
4 smaller, longbow, light and a call for the purpose of hunting
5 predatory animals, provided that written permission is obtained from
6 the local game warden for each twenty-four-hour period of hunting.

7 C. It shall be illegal to hunt from a boat with a firearm from
8 sunset until one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise. This shall not
9 pertain to hunting of waterfowl enroute from bank to blind with
10 unloaded shotguns.

11 D. Except as otherwise provided for in this section, no person
12 may harass, attempt to capture, capture, attempt to take or take,
13 kill or attempt to kill any wildlife with the aid of any motor-
14 driven land, air or water conveyance. A nonambulatory person may
15 hunt from said conveyances with written permission of the Director
16 of Wildlife Conservation. A person may hunt from an air conveyance
17 if issued a permit pursuant to Section 1 of this act. Nothing in
18 this section shall prevent the use of motor-driven land or water
19 conveyances for following dogs in the act of hunting, when use is
20 restricted to public roads or waterways. Motor-driven land or water
21 conveyances may be used on private property for following dogs in
22 the act of hunting with the permission of the landowner or occupant.

23 E. Employees of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food,
24 and Forestry Wildlife Services Division and the United States

1 Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services while engaged in
2 wildlife management activities for the protection of agriculture,
3 property, human health and safety and natural resources shall be
4 exempt from the provisions of this section.

5 F. Any person convicted of violating the provisions of this
6 section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a
7 fine of not less than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) for a
8 first offense and not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for a
9 second offense or by imprisonment in the county jail for not less
10 than ten (10) days nor more than one (1) year, or by confiscation
11 pursuant to Section 5-402 of this title or by such fine,
12 imprisonment and confiscation.

13 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.

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