Bill Summary 1st Session of the 58th Legislature

| Bill No.: | SB 492 |
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| Version: | CCR |
| Request No.: | 2196 |
| Author: | Sen. Woods |
| Date: | 05/17/2023 |

Bill Analysis

SB 492 prohibits any person from commercially harvesting wildlife without a harvesting license issued by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry. Applicants for such a license must submit proof that additional animals have been secured from a source other than wild stock. The Secretary of Agriculture and the State Veterinarian are authorized to inspect any commercial harvesting facility for probable cause. The measure establishes an annual \$300.00 fee for the license. The measure also strikes language authorizing game wardens of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation to inspect the records of any commercial hunting operation and redesignates commercial area hunting licenses to commercial hunting licenses.

The measure also creates the Wildfire Reimbursement Revolving Fund for the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry. The Fund shall be used to reimburse expenditures of Oklahoma fire departments who participated in extinguishment efforts of fires that were not fully extinguished for 24 hours and involved more than 1 fire department jurisdiction. The measure appropriates \$5 million from the General Revenue Fund to the newly created Fund.

CCR Changes

The Conference Committee Report for SB 492 adds language relating to the creation of a new harvesting license for wildlife and creates a license for such harvests.

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