

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 16, 2026

3 SENATE BILL NO. 2152

By: Kern and Murdock

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6 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation
7 Commission; amending 29 O.S. 2021, Section 5-401,
8 which relates to authority to declare open seasons on
9 wildlife; requiring certain periods to begin after
10 certain date; conforming statutory reference;
11 updating statutory language; and declaring an
12 emergency.

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

14 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 2021, Section 5-401, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 Section 5-401. A. The Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation
17 Commission is authorized to declare an open season on wildlife in
18 any counties or parts of counties of this state where, in the
19 judgment of the Commission, such wildlife exists in sufficient
20 quantity to warrant such open season, and such open season shall be
21 declared by Commission resolution not less than ten (10) days before
22 the season is opened.

23 B. The Commission may designate any two (2) consecutive days
24 after the open season declared for hunting deer to be senior
citizen's hunting days. During those two (2) days only legal

1 residents of Oklahoma who are sixty-four (64) years of age or older
2 may hunt deer, provided the person has a valid license as otherwise
3 provided by law.

4 C. The Commission is further authorized to declare an open
5 season on mountain lions and black bears; provided, such season for
6 black bears shall include a muzzle loader period and an archery
7 period starting no earlier than September 1 of each year.

8 D. Except as provided in subsection E of this section, the
9 Commission is further authorized to prescribe rules necessary to the
10 proper conduct and policing of such open season, the amount and kind
11 of wildlife that may be taken, and the dates and time limits of such
12 season.

13 E. Any bowfishing season set for nongame fish by the Commission
14 for the Upper Illinois River shall include the following:

15 1. Upstream from the Horseshoe Bend boat ramp to where State
16 Highway 51 crosses the Illinois River bowfishing is permitted from
17 June 1 to March 31; and

18 2. Upstream from where State Highway 51 crosses the Illinois
19 River bowfishing is permitted from December 1 through March 31.

20 F. The Commission is further authorized to require any person
21 participating in such open season or hunting in open areas during
22 open season to procure, under rules prescribed by the Commission, a
23 special permit or license to participate in such season or hunt in
24 such areas during open season and to charge residents not to exceed

1 Twenty Dollars (\$20.00), nonresidents not to exceed Seventy-five
2 Dollars (\$75.00) and further providing that Five Dollars (\$5.00) of
3 this fee shall be set aside for compensation to Oklahoma surface
4 holders participating in the Acres for Wildlife Program at a rate to
5 be determined by the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission. No
6 exemptions shall be permitted.

7 G. Open seasons, closed seasons, bag limits, catch limits,
8 possession limits, and territorial limitations set forth in the
9 statutes of this state, pertaining to wildlife of every sort, are
10 hereby declared to be based on the existence of a normal population
11 of such species of wildlife, compatible with and not damaging to the
12 proper agricultural use of the lands of the state.

13 H. Such seasons, catch limits, bag limits, possession limits,
14 and territorial limitations as set by statute shall prevail and be
15 in full force and effect for each and every species of wildlife to
16 which they pertain so long as the population or numbers of such
17 wildlife species remain normal or are not damaging or endangering
18 crops or proper agricultural use of the lands of the state.

19 I. The Commission in session, and after having given ten (10)
20 days' public notice of such meeting being called and the purpose of
21 such meeting, the species of wildlife to be considered, and the
22 reasons therefor, shall have the right to determine if there does or
23 does not exist a normal population of the wildlife species under
24 consideration, which does or does not endanger the crops of the

1 state or of any certain areas, or the agricultural use of the lands
2 therein. In the event the consideration is other than statewide,
3 the Commission shall meet at the most convenient place to the people
4 of the area in the area being considered. All meetings shall be
5 open to the public and proper records of those appearing and
6 testifying shall be made. If the Commission, after hearing and
7 after investigation, finds that the populations of the wildlife
8 species under hearing are not normal or that they are not compatible
9 to the agricultural use of the lands or are damaging or endangering
10 the farm crops of the area, ~~they~~ the Commission shall, by
11 administrative order, make the necessary changes by either
12 extending, shortening, opening or closing such seasons, and change
13 such bag limits, catch limits and possession limits, and regulate
14 methods or devices for taking, killing, or capturing ~~of~~ the wildlife
15 species affected in any area or areas covered by the notice of
16 meeting and hearing, except as otherwise set by the Legislature.

17 J. Such administrative order shall take effect after
18 publication in at least one newspaper of general state circulation,
19 or in a newspaper having circulation in the territory affected. A
20 copy of all such orders shall, before publication, be filed with the
21 Secretary of State, and such order shall not be construed as
22 authorizing the Commission to change any penalty for violating any
23 game law or regulation or change the amount of any license
24 established by the Legislature.

1 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
2 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
3 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
4 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

5 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND WILDLIFE
6 February 16, 2026 - DO PASS
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