

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 23, 2026

3 **AS AMENDED**

4 SENATE BILL NO. 330

5 By: Murdock

6 An Act relating to the Oklahoma State University
7 Veterinary Medicine Authority; defining terms;
8 authorizing the Authority to conduct study on elk
9 populations in this state; requiring a plan to be
10 established by certain date; specifying parameters of
11 study; requiring a management plan to be created at
12 conclusion of study; allowing the Authority to
13 coordinate with other agencies and experts; providing
14 for codification; providing an effective date; and
15 declaring an emergency.

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

17 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4024 of Title 2, unless there is
19 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 A. For the purposes of this section:

21 1. "Authority" means the Oklahoma State University Veterinary
22 Medicine Authority;

23 2. "Management plan" means a document developed by the Oklahoma
24 State University Veterinary Medicine Authority based on the findings
of the study pursuant to this section that outlines the recommended
actions for the conservation and management of elk populations in
this state; and

1 3. "Study zone" means the Special Northwest Zone that
2 encompasses all private lands in Woodward, Dewey, and Ellis
3 counties, and a portion of Roger Mills County north of State
4 Highways 33 and 47 to the north county line and west to the state
5 border and east to the county line.

6 B. No later than **November 1, 2026**, the Oklahoma State
7 University Veterinary Medicine Authority in cooperation with the
8 Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine shall
9 establish a plan and outline for a comprehensive study of the elk
10 populations within the Special Northwest Zone. This study shall
11 assess current population levels, trends, and habitat usage, and
12 develop science-based management recommendations aimed at ensuring
13 the long-term sustainability of elk populations and the health of
14 the ecosystem. The study shall include, but not be limited to, the
15 following program characteristics:

16 1. The current elk population size, distribution, and density
17 within the study zone;

18 2. The health and genetic diversity of the elk population,
19 including disease monitoring and signs of inbreeding, or other
20 health concerns; and

21 3. The effectiveness and impact of current elk population
22 management strategies, including hunting, predation control, and
23 habitat management.

1 Recommendations from the study shall be assessed and compiled in
2 a management plan for the conservation and management of elk
3 populations within the study zone and shall be made available on the
4 Authority's website.

5 C. The Authority may coordinate with other relevant state and
6 federal agencies to effectuate the provisions of this section. Such
7 coordination may include requests for temporary suspension and
8 restrictions on elk hunting and harvesting while the study is being
9 conducted.

10 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective **July 1, 2026.**

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

15 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND WILDLIFE
16 February 23, 2026 - DO PASS AS AMENDED
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