

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 2171

By: Bullard

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to wildlife; amending 29 O.S. 2021, Section 4-114, as amended by Section 6, Chapter 6, O.S.L. 2024 (29 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 4-114), which relates to hunting and fishing licenses; increasing required term of residency for certain license; updating statutory language; updating statutory reference; authorizing certain license upgrade; authorizing velvet buck controlled hunt; defining terms; setting controlled hunt, bag, and tag limits; specifying means of take; applying velvet buck harvest to deer bag limits; directing the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission to promulgate rules; authorizing cancellation for certain conditions; prohibiting certain refunds of fees; requiring valid license, permit, and stamp; providing for enforcement of laws and rules; setting licenses, permits, or stamps by rule; requiring controlled hunt to be based on normal deer populations; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 2021, Section 4-114, as amended by Section 6, Chapter 6, O.S.L. 2024 (29 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 4-114), is amended to read as follows:

Section 4-114. A. All legal residents who have resided in the state for at least ~~six (6) months~~ one (1) year and intend to remain

1 residents may purchase lifetime fishing licenses or lifetime
2 combination hunting and fishing licenses from the State Wildlife
3 Conservation Director.

4 B. The fee for these licenses shall be:

5 1. Lifetime fishing license, Three Hundred Seventy-five Dollars
6 (\$375.00);

7 2. Lifetime combination hunting and fishing license, One
8 Thousand Twenty-four Dollars (\$1,024.00);

9 3. Senior citizen lifetime fishing license for persons sixty-
10 five (65) years of age or older, Thirty Dollars (\$30.00); and

11 4. Senior citizen lifetime combination hunting and fishing
12 license for persons sixty-five (65) years of age or older, Sixty
13 Dollars (\$60.00).

14 C. ~~Legal~~ A legal resident having proper certification from the
15 United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its successor
16 certifying that the person is a disabled veteran and registered with
17 the veterans registry created by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans
18 Affairs may purchase a disability lifetime combination hunting and
19 fishing license from the State Wildlife Conservation Director. The
20 fees for the license shall be as follows:

21 1. Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) for veterans having a
22 disability of less than sixty percent (60%); and

23 2. Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) for veterans having a
24 disability of sixty percent (60%) or more.

1 D. The use of the licenses provided in this section are subject
2 to those restrictions provided by statute and the regulations of the
3 Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission. Except as otherwise
4 provided for in this section, each lifetime hunting license issued
5 pursuant to subsections B and C of this section shall be in lieu of
6 all annual hunting licenses and all special season permits.

7 E. Should any lifetime license be lost or destroyed, a
8 duplicate will be issued by the Department of Wildlife Conservation
9 for a fee not more than Ten Dollars (\$10.00).

10 F. A lifetime licensee shall not lose the privileges of such
11 license by a subsequent transfer of residency.

12 G. A person who is sixty-four (64) years of age shall be
13 eligible to purchase a senior citizen lifetime license issued
14 pursuant to paragraphs 3 and 4 ~~through 6~~ of subsection B of this
15 section during the calendar year in which the person turns sixty-
16 five (65) years of age.

17 H. The Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission shall
18 promulgate any rules necessary to implement the provisions of this
19 section.

20 I. A person who has previously purchased a lifetime fishing
21 license under this section may apply to the Commission to upgrade to
22 a lifetime combination license upon payment of the difference in fee
23 of the lifetime fishing license and lifetime combination license of
24 Six Hundred Forty-nine Dollars (\$649.00).

1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified

2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-414.1 of Title 29, unless
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. For purposes of this section:

5 1. "Velvet antler" means the whole cartilaginous antler is
6 exhibited in a pre-calcified growth stage of the cervidae family.
7 The deer antler must be covered in velvet-like hair that is
8 essentially skin that supplies nutrients and blood flow to the
9 growing bone and antler underneath; and

10 2. "Velvet buck" means a deer with velvet antlers.

11 B. Pursuant to Section 5-401 of Title 29 of the Oklahoma
12 Statutes, the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission shall
13 authorize a controlled hunt to hunt and harvest velvet bucks on
14 private land with consent of the landowner during the time beginning
15 on the Saturday morning prior to the last full weekend of August to
16 the Sunday evening of the last full weekend of August for a total of
17 nine (9) days in all counties. A controlled hunt for velvet bucks
18 shall be restricted to a limit of one velvet buck per license per
19 year.

20 C. The Commission shall authorize archery as the sole method
21 for shooting, hunting, killing, taking, or attempting to shoot,
22 hunt, kill, or take any velvet buck during the controlled hunt.

23 D. During a controlled hunt, legal residents of this state and
24 nonresidents may hunt velvet bucks, provided the person has a valid

1 deer license or velvet buck permit as otherwise provided by the laws
2 of this state. All velvet bucks killed or taken and harvested shall
3 count against the licensee's annual bag limit for deer in this
4 state. The Commission may issue the number of tags but shall issue
5 no fewer than one hundred (100) controlled hunt tags unless a state
6 of emergency is declared.

7 E. The Commission may promulgate rules necessary for the proper
8 conduct and policing of a controlled hunt for the hunting and
9 harvesting of velvet bucks, the velvet antler size, and the kind of
10 bucks that may be taken. The Commission may cancel a controlled
11 hunt of velvet bucks for any reason deemed appropriate including,
12 but not limited to, disease, weather, deer population, and herd
13 health. Any cancellation of a controlled hunt of velvet buck shall
14 prohibit the Commission from refunding or crediting any fees paid
15 for a velvet buck tag.

16 F. All laws and rules pertaining to velvet bucks in this state
17 shall be enforceable by the Department of Wildlife Conservation and
18 its agents. The Commission shall set velvet buck tags by rule;
19 provided, that the Commission shall reward ninety percent (90%) of
20 all velvet buck tags by rule to resident hunters of this state.

21 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective January 1, 2027.
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