

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 776

By: Rader

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to the torts; creating Julie's Law; providing short title; amending 76 O.S. 2021, Sections 50.2 and 50.3, which relates to the Oklahoma Livestock Activities Liability Limitation Act; defining terms; exempting certain provisions; requiring the use of helmets for certain individuals engaging in certain activities; allowing for waiver; providing for noncodification; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as "Julie's Law".

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 76 O.S. 2021, Section 50.2, is amended to read as follows:

Section 50.2. As used in the Oklahoma Livestock Activities Liability Limitation Act:

1. "Engages in a livestock activity" includes training, racing, showing, riding, or assisting in medical treatment of, or driving livestock, or engaging in any agritourism activity involving livestock or on a location where livestock are displayed or raised,

1 and any person assisting a participant, livestock activity sponsor
2 or livestock professional. The term "engages in a livestock
3 activity" does not include being a spectator at a livestock
4 activity, except in cases where the spectator places himself or
5 herself in immediate proximity to livestock activity;

6 2. "Agritourism activity" includes, but is not limited to, any
7 activity carried out on a farm or ranch that allows members of the
8 general public, for recreational, entertainment, or educational
9 purposes, to view or enjoy rural activities, including farming,
10 ranching, historic, cultural, harvest-your-own activities, or
11 natural activities and attractions. An activity is an agritourism
12 activity whether or not the participant pays to participate in the
13 activity;

14 3. "Equestrian facility" means a facility created and
15 maintained for the purpose of accommodating horses for equine
16 activities. Equestrian facility does not mean a facility used for
17 livestock activities;

18 ~~3.~~ 4. "Equine activity" means equine training or teaching
19 activities or both such training or teaching activities at an
20 equestrian facility;

21 5. "Livestock" means any cattle, bison, hog, sheep, goat,
22 equine livestock, including but not limited to animals of the
23 families bovidae, cervidae and antilocapridae or birds of the ratite
24 group;

1 4. 6. "Livestock activity" includes but is not limited to:

- 2 a. livestock shows, fairs, livestock sales, competitions,
3 performances, or parades that involve any or all
4 breeds of livestock and any of the livestock
5 disciplines, including, but not limited to, rodeos,
6 auctions, driving, pulling, judging, cutting and
7 showing,
8 b. livestock training or teaching activities or both such
9 training and teaching activities,
10 c. boarding or pasturing livestock,
11 d. inspecting or evaluating livestock belonging to
12 another, whether or not the owner has received some
13 monetary consideration or other thing of value for the
14 use of the livestock or is permitting a prospective
15 purchaser of the livestock to inspect or evaluate the
16 livestock,
17 e. drives, rides, trips, hunts or other livestock
18 activities of any type however informal or impromptu
19 that are sponsored by a livestock activity sponsor,
20 f. placing or replacing horseshoes on an equine, or
21 otherwise preparing livestock for show, and
22 g. agritourism activities involving the viewing of,
23 handling of, riding of, showing of, or other
24 interactive activities with livestock;

1 ~~5.~~ 7. "Livestock activity sponsor" means an individual, group,
2 club, partnership or corporation, whether or not the sponsor is
3 operating for profit or nonprofit, which sponsors, organizes, or
4 provides the facilities for, a livestock activity, including but not
5 limited to: livestock clubs, 4-H clubs, FFA chapters, school and
6 college-sponsored classes, programs and activities, therapeutic
7 riding programs, and operators, instructors, and promoters of
8 livestock facilities, including, but not limited to, barns, stables,
9 clubhouses, ponyride strings, fairs and arenas at which the activity
10 is held;

11 ~~6.~~ 8. "Livestock professional" means a person engaged for
12 compensation in:

- 13 a. instructing a participant or renting to a participant
14 livestock for the purpose of engaging in livestock
15 activity, or
16 b. renting equipment or tack to a participant;

17 ~~7.~~ 9. "Inherent risks of livestock activities" means those
18 dangers or conditions which are an integral part of livestock
19 activities, including but not limited to:

- 20 a. the propensity of livestock to behave in ways that may
21 result in injury to persons on or around them,
22 b. the unpredictability of livestock's reaction to such
23 things as sounds, sudden movement and unfamiliar
24 objects, persons or other animals,

- c. certain hazards such as surface and subsurface conditions unknown to the livestock activity sponsor,
- d. collisions with other livestock or objects, and
- e. the potential of tack to become dislodged or move in ways that may result in injury to persons on or around livestock activities; and

~~8.~~ 10. "Participant" means any person, whether amateur or professional, who engages in a livestock activity, whether or not a fee is paid to participate in the livestock activity.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 76 O.S. 2021, Section 50.3, is amended to read as follows:

Section 50.3. A. Except as provided in subsection B of this section, a livestock activity sponsor, a participant or a livestock professional acting in good faith and pursuant to the standards of the livestock industry shall not be liable for injuries to any person engaged in livestock activities when such injuries result from the inherent risks of livestock activities.

B. 1. The provisions of the Oklahoma Livestock Activities Liability Limitation Act shall not apply to employees of the sponsor or livestock professional in the performance of their duties who are covered by or subject to the provisions of the workers' compensation laws of Title 85 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

2. Nothing in subsection A of this section shall prevent or limit the liability of a livestock activity sponsor, a participant

1 or a livestock professional, if the livestock activity sponsor, a
2 participant or livestock professional:

- 3 a. commits an act or omission that constitutes willful or
4 wanton disregard for the safety of any person engaged
5 in livestock activities, and that act or omission
6 caused the injury,
- 7 b. intentionally injures a person engaged in livestock
8 activities,
- 9 c. provided the equipment or tack, which was faulty, and
10 such equipment or tack was faulty to the extent that
11 it did cause the injury. The provisions of this
12 subparagraph shall not apply to livestock activities
13 sponsored by youth organizations when youth
14 participants share equipment or tack between
15 themselves,
- 16 d. provided the livestock and failed to make a reasonable
17 effort to determine the ability of the participant to
18 manage the particular livestock based upon the
19 participant's representations of such participant's
20 ability. Provided, however, a participant in a
21 livestock show, livestock sale, or rodeo shall be
22 presumed to be competent in the handling of livestock
23 if an entry form is required for the activity and
24 signed by the participant, or

1 e. owns, leases, rents or otherwise is in lawful
2 possession and control of the land or facilities upon
3 which the participant sustained injuries because of a
4 dangerous condition which was known to the livestock
5 activity sponsor, livestock professional or person and
6 not made known to the participant.

7 3. Nothing in subsection A of this section shall prevent or
8 limit the liability of a livestock activity sponsor, a participant
9 or a livestock professional:

10 a. under liability provisions as set forth in the
11 products liability laws, or

12 b. for livestock activities which result in the death of
13 any person engaged in livestock activities from the
14 inherent risks of livestock activities.

15 4. Nothing in subsection A of this section shall prevent or
16 limit the liability of an individual owning, leasing, renting, or
17 otherwise in lawful possession of an equestrian facility who fails
18 to follow the provisions of Section 3 of this act.

19 C. A sponsor shall not be held vicariously liable for the acts
20 or omission of a participant or a livestock professional.

21 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 50.5 of Title 76, unless there
23 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 A. It shall be unlawful for a person less than eighteen (18)
2 years of age to engage in equine activities at an equestrian
3 facility in this state without wearing protective headgear secured
4 by a harness, which passed ASTM International and the Safety
5 Equipment Institute standards for equine activity use.

6 B. The provisions of this section may be waived pursuant to
7 Section 50.4 of Title 76 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

8 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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