

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

SENATE BILL 917

By: Stephens

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to hunting licenses; amending 29 O.S. 2021, Sections 4-112, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 208, O.S.L. 2022, 4-130, and 4-144 (29 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section 4-112), which relate to hunting licenses, waterfowl stamp, and black bear hunting license; increasing nonresident fees; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 2021, Section 4-112, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 208, O.S.L. 2022 (29 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section 4-112), is amended to read as follows:

Section 4-112. A. Except as otherwise provided for in the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Code or the Oklahoma Farmed Cervidae Act, no person may hunt, pursue, trap, harass, catch, kill, take or attempt to take in any manner, use, have in possession, sell, or transport all or any portion of any wildlife except fish, without having first procured a license from the Department of Wildlife Conservation. The Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission shall designate a consecutive Saturday and Sunday in September of each

1 year as free hunting days in which residents of this state may hunt
2 without first procuring a hunting license pursuant to the provisions
3 of this section.

4 B. The following legal residents of Oklahoma shall be exempt
5 from the annual hunting license requirement of paragraph 1 of
6 subsection E of this section and the following nonresidents shall be
7 exempt from the annual nonresident hunting licenses required
8 pursuant to paragraph 1 of subsection C of this section:

9 1. Legal residents under sixteen (16) years of age;

10 2. Legal residents sixty-five (65) years of age or older
11 provided they have obtained a senior citizen lifetime hunting or
12 combination hunting and fishing license pursuant to the provisions
13 of Section 4-114 of this title;

14 3. Legal residents born on or before January 1, 1923;

15 4. Legal resident veterans having a disability of sixty percent
16 (60%) or more and registered with the veterans registry created by
17 the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs; provided, that if the
18 veteran has previously received an exemption pursuant to this
19 paragraph, no registration with the veterans registry shall be
20 required;

21 5. Legal resident owners or tenants who hunt on land owned or
22 leased by them;

23 6. Any nonresident under fourteen (14) years of age;

1 7. Legal residents having a proven disability which renders
2 them nonambulatory and confines them to a wheelchair, as certified
3 by a physician licensed in this state or in any state which borders
4 this state;

5 8. Any legal resident or nonresident under eighteen (18) years
6 of age who is in the physical custody of a child care facility as
7 defined by Section 402 of Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

8 9. Any legal resident or nonresident hunting, pursuing,
9 trapping, harassing, catching, killing, taking, or attempting to
10 take in any manner any species of rattlesnake during an organized
11 rattlesnake-hunting event or festival and who has a rattlesnake
12 permit issued pursuant to Section 4-143 of this title.

13 C. Except as otherwise provided for in the Oklahoma Wildlife
14 Conservation Code, the nonresident hunting licenses issued pursuant
15 to this section and the fee for each license shall be:

16 1. Annual hunting license for nonresidents hunting game other
17 than deer, antelope, elk or bear which expires one (1) year after
18 the date of issuance - One Hundred Seventy-five Dollars (\$175.00).
19 Nonresidents hunting big game or combination big game and upland
20 game in a commercial hunting area shall be required to have this
21 license;

22 2. Gun hunting license for deer for nonresidents which shall be
23 valid for hunting all deer allowed during the current calendar year
24

1 deer gun season - ~~Two Hundred Seventy-nine Dollars (\$279.00)~~ Four
2 Hundred Twenty-three Dollars (\$423.00);

3 3. Archery hunting license for deer for nonresidents which
4 shall expire on January 15 of the calendar year after the year
5 purchased or if purchased during the deer archery season it shall
6 expire at the end of that deer archery season - ~~Two Hundred Seventy-~~
7 ~~nine Dollars (\$279.00)~~ Four Hundred Twenty-three Dollars (\$423.00);

8 4. Primitive firearms hunting license for deer for nonresidents
9 which shall be valid for hunting all deer allowed during the current
10 calendar year deer primitive firearms season - ~~Two Hundred Seventy-~~
11 ~~nine Dollars (\$279.00)~~ Four Hundred Twenty-three Dollars (\$423.00);

12 5. Hunting license for antelope for nonresidents - ~~Three~~
13 ~~Hundred Five Dollars (\$305.00)~~ Four Hundred Twenty-three Dollars
14 (\$423.00);

15 6. Hunting license for elk for nonresidents - ~~Three Hundred~~
16 ~~Five Dollars (\$305.00)~~ Four Hundred Twenty-three Dollars (\$423.00);

17 7. Five-day hunting license for nonresidents hunting game other
18 than deer, antelope, elk, quail, turkey or bear - Seventy-four
19 Dollars (\$74.00). Nonresidents hunting big game or combination big
20 game and upland game in a commercial hunting area shall be required
21 to have this license; and

22 8. Ten-day hunting license for nonresidents hunting small game
23 in a commercial hunting area - Five Dollars (\$5.00).

1 D. Of the fees collected pursuant to the provisions of
2 subsection C of this section:

3 1. Five Dollars (\$5.00) of the license fee of each license
4 issued pursuant to paragraphs 1 through 7 of subsection C of this
5 section and Two Dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) of the license fee
6 for each license issued pursuant to paragraph 8 of subsection C of
7 this section shall be deposited in the Wildlife Land Acquisition
8 Fund created pursuant to the provisions of Section 4-132 of this
9 title; and

10 2. Five Dollars (\$5.00) of the license fee for each license
11 issued pursuant to paragraphs 1 through 8 of subsection C of this
12 section shall be for the Oklahoma Wildlife Land Stamp and shall be
13 deposited in the Oklahoma Wildlife Land Fund created pursuant to the
14 provisions of Section 4-141 of this title.

15 E. Except as otherwise provided, the annual resident hunting
16 licenses issued pursuant to this subsection shall expire one (1)
17 year after the date of issuance. The resident hunting licenses
18 issued pursuant to this section and the fee for each license shall
19 be:

20 1. Annual hunting license for residents eighteen (18) years of
21 age and older - Thirty-one Dollars (\$31.00);

22 2. Annual hunting license for residents sixteen (16) or
23 seventeen (17) years of age - Six Dollars (\$6.00);

1 3. Ten-day hunting license for residents for small game in a
2 commercial hunting area - Five Dollars (\$5.00);

3 4. Five-year disability hunting license for residents for at
4 least six (6) months who are receiving Social Security Disability
5 benefits, Supplemental Security Income benefits or disability
6 benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act, 45 U.S.C.A., Section
7 231a, or residents who are one-hundred-percent disabled and are
8 receiving disability payments from the Multiple Injury Trust Fund
9 pursuant to Section 31 of Title 85A of the Oklahoma Statutes - Ten
10 Dollars (\$10.00);

11 5. Gun hunting license for deer for residents eighteen (18)
12 years of age or older - Nineteen Dollars (\$19.00). The following
13 persons shall be exempt:

- 14 a. residents with proper certification from the United
15 States Department of Veterans Affairs or its
16 successor, certifying that the person is a disabled
17 veteran in receipt of compensation at the one-hundred-
18 percent rate and registered with the veterans registry
19 created by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans
20 Affairs; provided, that if the veteran has previously
21 received an exemption pursuant to this subparagraph,
22 no registration with the veterans registry shall be
23 required, and

1 b. residents hunting in big game or combination big game
2 and upland game commercial hunting areas;

3 6. Gun hunting license for deer for residents under eighteen
4 (18) years of age - Nine Dollars (\$9.00);

5 7. Archery hunting license for deer for residents eighteen (18)
6 years of age or older - Nineteen Dollars (\$19.00). The following
7 persons shall be exempt:

8 a. residents with proper certification from the United
9 States Department of Veterans Affairs or its
10 successor, certifying that the person is a disabled
11 veteran in receipt of compensation at the one-hundred-
12 percent rate and registered with the veterans registry
13 created by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans
14 Affairs; provided, that if the veteran has previously
15 received the exemption pursuant to this subparagraph,
16 no registration with the veterans registry shall be
17 required, and

18 b. residents hunting in big game or combination big game
19 and upland game commercial hunting areas;

20 8. Archery hunting license for deer for residents under
21 eighteen (18) years of age - Nine Dollars (\$9.00);

22 9. Primitive firearms hunting license for deer for residents
23 eighteen (18) years of age or older - Nineteen Dollars (\$19.00).

24 The following persons shall be exempt:

1 a. residents with proper certification from the United
2 States Department of Veterans Affairs or its
3 successor, certifying that the person is a disabled
4 veteran in receipt of compensation at the one-hundred-
5 percent rate and registered with the veterans registry
6 created by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans
7 Affairs; provided, that if the veteran has previously
8 received the exemption pursuant to this subparagraph,
9 no registration with the veterans registry shall be
10 required, and

11 b. residents hunting in big game or combination big game
12 and upland game commercial hunting areas;

13 10. Primitive firearms hunting license for deer for residents
14 under eighteen (18) years of age - Nine Dollars (\$9.00);

15 11. Hunting license for elk for residents - Fifty Dollars
16 (\$50.00). Residents hunting in big game or combination big game and
17 upland game commercial hunting areas shall be exempt from this
18 license;

19 12. Hunting license for antelope for residents - Fifty Dollars
20 (\$50.00). Residents hunting in big game or combination big game and
21 upland game commercial hunting areas shall be exempt from this
22 license; and

1 13. Bonus, special or additional gun hunting license for deer
2 for residents - Nineteen Dollars (\$19.00). The following persons
3 shall be exempt:

- 4 a. residents with proper certification from the United
5 States Department of Veterans Affairs or its
6 successor, certifying that the person is a disabled
7 veteran in receipt of compensation at the one-hundred-
8 percent rate and registered with the veterans registry
9 created by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans
10 Affairs; provided, that if the veteran has previously
11 received the exemption pursuant to this subparagraph,
12 no registration with the veterans registry shall be
13 required, and
- 14 b. residents hunting in big game or combination big game
15 and upland game commercial hunting areas.

16 F. Of the fees collected pursuant to the provisions of
17 paragraph 1 of subsection E of this section, Five Dollars (\$5.00) of
18 the license fee shall be for the Oklahoma Wildlife Land Stamp and
19 shall be deposited in the Oklahoma Wildlife Land Fund created
20 pursuant to the provisions of Section 4-141 of this title.

21 G. The provisions of this section shall not be construed to
22 require a hunting license, resident or nonresident, of any person
23 merely because the person participates, as owner or handler of an
24 entry, as an official, or as a spectator in the conduct of a field
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1 trial or performance test of dogs, whether a resident or nonresident
2 of this state. No license to hunt shall be required of any person
3 engaged in training or working dogs, provided that person is in no
4 way engaged in hunting and does not take or attempt to take in any
5 manner any game.

6 H. 1. Any person arrested for hunting game other than deer,
7 antelope, elk, bear or turkey without a valid hunting license as
8 required by the provisions of subsection A of this section may
9 purchase a substitute temporary thirty-day license from the
10 arresting game warden in lieu of posting bond. Proof of hunter
11 safety certification will not be required for the temporary
12 substitute license. The fee for a substitute license purchased
13 pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall be:

- 14 a. for legal residents, Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), and
- 15 b. for nonresidents, One Hundred Forty-five Dollars
16 (\$145.00).

17 2. Except as otherwise provided for by this subsection, the
18 fees from licenses purchased pursuant to the provisions of this
19 subsection shall be deposited in the Wildlife Conservation Fund to
20 be used exclusively for developing, managing, preserving, and
21 protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat.

22 I. Any person producing proof in court that a current hunting
23 license issued by the Department of Wildlife Conservation to that
24 person was in force at the time of the alleged offense shall be

1 entitled to dismissal of a charge of violating this section upon
2 payment of court costs. If proof of a current hunting license
3 issued by the Department to the person that was in force at the time
4 of the alleged offense is presented to the court or district
5 attorney within seventy-two (72) hours after the violation, the
6 charge shall be dismissed without payment of court costs.

7 J. Unless a substitute license is purchased as provided for by
8 subsection H of this section, any resident convicted of violating
9 the provisions of this section shall be punished by the imposition
10 of a fine of not less than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) nor more
11 than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00), or by imprisonment in the county
12 jail for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days, or by both.

13 K. Unless a substitute license is purchased as provided for by
14 subsection H of this section, any nonresident convicted of violating
15 the provisions of this section shall be punished by the imposition
16 of a fine of not less than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) nor more
17 than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by imprisonment in the
18 county jail for a period not to exceed six (6) months, or by both.

19 L. The Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission shall
20 promulgate any rules necessary to implement the provisions of this
21 section.

22 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 2021, Section 4-130, is
23 amended to read as follows:
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1 Section 4-130. A. Except as otherwise provided in the Oklahoma
2 Wildlife Conservation Code, no person may hunt or take any waterfowl
3 during the open season on waterfowl unless the person has first
4 obtained an Oklahoma waterfowl hunting stamp or license from the
5 Director or authorized agents of the Director. Each person shall
6 have the stamp or license in their possession when hunting or taking
7 any waterfowl. When a stamp is purchased, the stamp shall be
8 validated by the signature of the licensee written across the face
9 of the stamp.

10 B. Persons excepted from the Oklahoma waterfowl hunting stamp
11 or license requirement of this section are:

- 12 1. Legal residents of Oklahoma under sixteen (16) years of age;
- 13 and
- 14 2. Legal residents of Oklahoma sixty-five (65) years of age or
15 older.

16 C. 1. The Oklahoma waterfowl hunting stamp fee and waterfowl
17 license shall each be Nine Dollars (\$9.00) for residents and Thirty
18 Dollars (\$30.00) for nonresidents. The remainder of the fee shall
19 be deposited in the Wildlife Conservation Fund, to be used
20 exclusively in the State of Oklahoma, for the purpose of developing,
21 managing, preserving, restoring and maintaining wetland habitats and
22 for the conservation and management of waterfowl and ecologically
23 related species.

1 2. The collection and remittance procedures applicable to
2 hunting license fees under this title shall apply to waterfowl stamp
3 or license fees.

4 3. The waterfowl stamp or license issued pursuant to this
5 section shall expire on June 30 of each year.

6 D. The Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission may prescribe,
7 by regulation, the form, design and manner of issuance, if any, of
8 the waterfowl stamp, which could include the selection of art for
9 such stamp from an art contest regulated by the Commission.

10 E. 1. Any person arrested for hunting or taking any waterfowl
11 during the open season on waterfowl without a valid Oklahoma
12 waterfowl hunting stamp or license as required by the provisions of
13 subsection A of this section may purchase a substitute temporary
14 thirty-day stamp or license from the arresting game warden in lieu
15 of posting bond. Proof of hunter safety certification shall not be
16 required for the temporary substitute stamp or license. The fee for
17 a substitute stamp or license purchased pursuant to the provisions
18 of this subsection shall be:

- 19 a. for legal residents - Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), and
- 20 b. for nonresidents - One Hundred Forty-five Dollars
21 (\$145.00).

22 2. The fees from the temporary stamp and license purchased
23 pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall be deposited in
24 the Wildlife Conservation Fund, to be used exclusively in the State

1 of Oklahoma, for the purpose of developing, managing, preserving,
2 restoring and maintaining wetland habitats and for the conservation
3 and management of waterfowl and ecologically related species.

4 F. Any person convicted of violating any of the provisions of
5 this section shall be punished by a fine of not less than Twenty-
6 five Dollars (\$25.00) nor more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).

7 G. Nothing in this title shall prohibit a person from hunting
8 waterfowl exclusively on their own property without an Oklahoma
9 waterfowl hunting stamp or license.

10 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 2021, Section 4-144, is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 Section 4-144. A. No person may hunt or take black bear
13 without having first procured a license from the Director of
14 Wildlife Conservation or an agent of the Director.

15 B. The Wildlife Conservation Commission shall decide the open
16 season, the bag limits, and territorial limitations for hunting or
17 taking black bear.

18 C. The fees for a license issued pursuant to this section shall
19 be:

- 20 1. For legal residents, One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00); and
21 2. For nonresidents, ~~Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)~~ Six Hundred
22 Twenty-three Dollars (\$623.00).

23 D. Any person who fails to obtain a license as required in
24 subsection A of this section and pay the fee as required in

1 paragraph 1 of subsection C of this section, upon conviction, shall
2 be punished by a fine of not less than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00)
3 nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or by imprisonment in
4 the county jail for a period not to exceed six (6) months, or by
5 both said fine and imprisonment.

6 E. Any person who fails to obtain a license as required in
7 subsection A of this section and pay the fee as required in
8 paragraph 2 of subsection C of this section, upon conviction, shall
9 be punished by a fine of not less than Eight Hundred Dollars
10 (\$800.00) nor more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or by
11 imprisonment in the county jail for a period not to exceed six (6)
12 months, or by both said fine and imprisonment.

13 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

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