

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB1229
Version:	CS
Request Number:	7928
Author:	Speaker McCall
Date:	3/8/2023
Impact:	\$316,850

Research Analysis

The committee substitute for HB 1229 modifies provisions of law around the commercial harvesting of animals. The measure:

- Authorizes the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry to issue commercial harvesting licenses to eligible commercial harvesting facilities;
- Prohibits the capturing and raising of wild animals, and requires any person obtaining or renewing a commercial harvesting license to submit proof that any new animals are not state-owned wildlife;
- Transfers the authority to inspect a commercial harvesting facility from the Department of Wildlife Conservation to the Secretary of Agriculture, the State Veterinarian, or a designee;
- Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture or State Veterinarian to inspect a commercial harvesting facility at any time if there is probable cause of a violation;
- Sets the fee for a commercial harvesting facility license at \$300 annually; and
- Requires such licenses to expire August 31st of each year.

Prepared By: Emily Byrne

Fiscal Analysis

This measure moves certain licensing and oversight requirements from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) to the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF).

For ODWC, this will result in a revenue loss of about forty-eight thousand dollars (\$48,000.00). As ODWC is a non-appropriated agency, there should be no fiscal impact from this loss on the state.

Even with the licensing fee being transferred over to ODAFF, the agency believes it will need another three hundred sixteen thousand, eight hundred and fifty dollars (\$316,850.00). These funds will be used to hire three new staffers (one veterinarian and two inspectors), and also buy new vehicles for the inspectors. This \$316,850 costs is the annualized costs moving forward for the program for these expenses. ODAFF will use the licensing fees for continual operational costs of the program.

Prepared By: Mariah Searock, House Fiscal Staff

Other Considerations

None.

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