| 1 | HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION |
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| 2 | STATE OF OKLAHOMA |
| 3 | 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021) |
| 4 | HOUSE BILL 2055 By: McCall |
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| 7 | AS INTRODUCED |
| 8 | An Act relating to trespass; amending 21 O.S. 2011, Sections 1835, 1835.1 and 1835.2, as last amended by |
| 9 | Section 1, Chapter 185, O.S.L. 2018 (21 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 1835.2), which relate to trespass; |
| 10 | allowing parties to recover certain nominal damages; and providing an effective date. |
| 11 | and providing an effective date. |
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| 14 | BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA: |
| 15 | SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 21 O.S. 2011, Section 1835, is |
| 16 | amended to read as follows: |
| 17 | Section 1835. A. Whoever shall willfully or maliciously enter |
| 18 | the garden, yard, pasture or field of another after being expressly |
| 19 | forbidden to do so or without permission by the owner or lawful |
| 20 | occupant thereof when such property is posted shall be deemed guilty |
| 21 | of trespass and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum |
| 22 | not to exceed Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00); provided, that |
| 23 | this provision shall not apply to registered land surveyors and |
| 24 | registered professional engineers for the purpose of land surveying |

in the performance of their professional services; and, provided 1 further, that anyone who willfully or maliciously enters any such 2 garden, yard, pasture or field, and therein commits or attempts to 3 commit waste, theft, or damage shall be deemed guilty of a 4 misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum 5 not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) nor more than Five Hundred 6 Dollars (\$500.00), or by confinement in the county jail for not less 7 than thirty (30) days nor more than six (6) months, or both such 8 9 fine and imprisonment. For purposes of this section, "posted" means 10 exhibiting signs to read as follows: "PROPERTY RESTRICTED"; "POSTED - KEEP OUT"; "KEEP OUT"; "NO TRESPASSING"; or similar signs which 11 12 are displayed. Property that is fenced or not fenced must have such signs placed conspicuously and at all places where entry to the 13 property is normally expected. 14

B. No provisions of this act shall conflict with Section 5-202
or 6-304 of Title 29 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

Whoever shall willfully enter the pecan grove of another 17 С. without the prior consent of the owner or occupant thereof to so do 18 shall be deemed quilty of trespass and upon conviction thereof shall 19 be fined in any sum not to exceed Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00); 20 21 provided, that anyone who willfully enters any such pecan grove and 22 therein commits or attempts to commit waste, theft, or damage shall 23 be deemed quilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall 24 be fined in any sum not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by confinement in the county jail for not less than thirty (30) days
 nor more than six (6) months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Whoever shall willfully or maliciously enter upon property D. 3 owned or managed by the Grand River Dam Authority without permission 4 when such property is posted shall be deemed quilty of misdemeanor 5 trespass and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum not 6 to exceed Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00); provided, that this 7 provision shall not apply to registered land surveyors and 8 9 registered professional engineers for the purpose of land surveying 10 in the performance of their professional services; and, provided 11 further, that anyone who willfully or maliciously enters upon 12 property owned or managed by the Grand River Dam Authority without permission and therein commits or attempts to commit waste, theft, 13 or damage shall be deemed guilty of misdemeanor trespass, and upon 14 15 conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum not less than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by 16 17 confinement in the county jail for not less than thirty (30) days nor more than six (6) months, or both such fine and imprisonment. 18 19 For purposes of this section, "posted" means exhibiting signs to read as follows: "PROPERTY RESTRICTED"; "POSTED - KEEP OUT"; "KEEP 20 21 OUT"; "NO TRESPASSING"; or similar signs which are displayed. 22 Property that is fenced or not fenced must have such signs placed 23 conspicuously and at all places where entry to the property is 24 normally expected.

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E. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the 1 Governor's Mansion and its grounds and appurtenances shall not be 2 required to be posted with signs warning against trespass. 3 Anv person who shall willfully or maliciously enter the grounds of the 4 Governor's Mansion within the State Capitol Park, as defined in 5 Section 1811.4 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes, except at a 6 place where entry to the property is normally expected shall be 7 deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined in 8 9 a sum not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by 10 confinement in the county jail for not less than thirty (30) days 11 nor more than six (6) months, or by both fine and imprisonment.

F. If a party to a trespass action proves a trespass occurred, the party is entitled to recover nominal damages, even if the party has not suffered any actual loss or damage to the property.

15 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 21 O.S. 2011, Section 1835.1, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 Section 1835.1 A. Every person, partnership, corporation or other legal entity engaged in any public business, trade, or 18 profession of any kind wherein merchandise, goods or services are 19 offered for sale may forbid the entry or presence of any person upon 20 the premises of the place of business, if the person has been 21 22 convicted of a crime involving entry onto or criminal acts occurring 23 upon any real property owned, leased, or under the control of such 24 person, partnership, corporation or other legal entity. Such crimes

shall include, but are not limited to, shoplifting, vandalism, and
 disturbing the peace while upon the premises of any place of
 business of the person, partnership, corporation, or other legal
 entity.

B. In order to exercise the authority conferred by subsection A
of this section, the owner or an agent of the owner of a public
business, trade, or profession must notify the person whom the owner
or agent desires to prohibit from such owner's place of business.

9 C. No person shall willfully enter or remain upon the premises 10 after being expressly forbidden to do so in the manner provided for 11 in this section. Any person convicted of violating the provisions 12 of this section, upon conviction, shall be quilty of trespass and shall be punished by a fine of not more than Two Hundred Fifty 13 Dollars (\$250.00) or by confinement in the county jail for a term of 14 not more than thirty (30) days, or by both such fine and 15 16 imprisonment.

D. The provisions of this act shall not preclude any other remedy allowed by law.

19E. If a party to a trespass action proves a trespass occurred,20the party is entitled to recover nominal damages, even if the party21has not suffered any actual loss or damage to the property.22SECTION 3. AMENDATORY21 O.S. 2011, Section 1835.2, as

23 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 185, O.S.L. 2018 (21 O.S. Supp.

24 2019, Section 1835.2), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1835.2 A. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 1835 of this title, the following provisions apply to private land that is primarily devoted to farming, ranching, or forestry purposes:

1. Except as provided in this section, whoever willfully enters 5 private land of another that is primarily devoted to farming, 6 ranching, or forestry purposes without permission by the surface 7 owner, surface lessee, hunting lessee, or lawful occupant thereof 8 9 shall be deemed guilty of trespass and, upon conviction thereof, 10 shall be fined in any sum not less than Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars 11 (\$750.00) nor more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00), and in 12 addition, the court shall order restitution for actual damages incurred. Persons convicted of a second or subsequent offense under 13 this paragraph shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be 14 15 punished by a fine in any sum not less than One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) nor more than Two Thousand Five Hundred 16 17 Dollars (\$2,500.00), or by confinement in the county jail for not less than thirty (30) days nor more than six (6) months, or by both 18 19 such fine and imprisonment, and in addition, the court shall order restitution for actual damages incurred; 20

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this subsection shall not 22 apply to peace officers as defined in Section 99 of this title or 23 any federal, state, or local government employees engaged in the 24 performance of their duties, or to any firefighters, emergency

medical personnel, or public utility employees engaged in addressing 1 an emergency that presents an imminent danger to health, safety, or 2 the environment in the performance of their duties, or to parties 3 engaged in oil and gas operations, which shall include, without 4 limitation, exploration, drilling, production and sales activities, 5 under authority of mineral ownership, an oil and gas lease, seismic 6 agreement or permit, gas gathering, purchase, transportation, or 7 treating contracts, Corporation Commission order, or other lawful 8 9 authority from persons entitled to give the same. The provisions of 10 paragraph 1 of this subsection shall not prohibit railroad employees 11 and emergency equipment from entering such land to restore rail service following an accident, derailment or natural disaster; nor 12 the entrance of utility employees or contractors while acting in the 13 scope of their employment; nor employees or contractors of valid 14 easement or license holders while acting in the scope of their 15 16 employment;

3. The following persons may enter such land of another unless forbidden to do so, either orally or in writing, by the owner or lawful occupier thereof: registered land surveyors and registered professional engineers for the purpose of land surveying in the performance of their professional services, persons making a delivery, selling a product or service, conducting a survey or poll, working on behalf of a candidate for political office, or who

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otherwise have a legitimate reason for entering and who, immediately upon entering, seek to conduct such business; and

Anyone who willfully or maliciously enters any such land of 4. 3 another and therein commits or attempts to commit waste, theft, or 4 damage shall be deemed quilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction 5 thereof, shall be fined not less than One Thousand Dollars 6 7 (\$1,000.00), or by confinement in the county jail for not less than thirty (30) days nor more than six (6) months, or by both such fine 8 9 and imprisonment, and in addition, the court shall order restitution 10 for actual damages incurred. Persons convicted of a second or 11 subsequent offense under this paragraph shall be quilty of a 12 misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than Two 13 Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00), or by confinement in the county jail for not less than thirty (30) days nor more than six (6) 14 15 months, or by both such fine and imprisonment, and in addition, the court shall order restitution for actual damages. 16

B. This section shall not be construed to prohibit acts that
are permitted pursuant to Section 5-202 or 6-304 of Title 29 of the
Oklahoma Statutes.

C. 1. It shall be an affirmative defense to prosecution under paragraph 1 of subsection A of this section that the accused had express or implied permission or legal authority to be on the property.

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2. If an accused reasonably believed he or she was upon 1 property for which they had permission to be upon, it shall be an 2 affirmative defense to prosecution under paragraph 1 of subsection A 3 of this section that the accused had with him or her, on his or her 4 person, written permission from the surface owner, surface lessee, 5 hunting lessee, or lawful occupant to be upon such person's land 6 while the accused was upon any adjoining property. This defense 7 shall not be available to the accused if: 8

- a. the accused has previously pled guilty, nolo
 contendere, or has been convicted of any act of
 trespass or has been found civilly liable of any act
 of trespass, or
- b. the accused, while the accused was upon the adjoining
 property, does not have with him or her, on his or her
 person, the written permission specified in this
 paragraph.
- D. If a party to a trespass action proves a trespass occurred, the party is entitled to recover nominal damages, even if the party has not suffered any actual loss or damage to the property.
- 20 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.
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- 22 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON RULES, dated 02/09/2021 DO PASS.
 23
 - HB2055 HFLR BOLD FACE denotes Committee Amendments.

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