HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

HOUSE BILL 2714

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By: Ortega

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to feral swine; amending 2 O.S. 2011, Section 6-604, which relates to removal of feral swine; eliminating permit requirement to kill feral swine at night; authorizing the use of certain light devices except during deer season; amending 29 O.S. 2011, Section 4-135, which relates to permits to control nuisances; eliminating permit requirement to kill feral swine at night; amending 29 O.S. 2011, Section 5-203.1, which relates to headlighting; permitting the use of certain lights to remove feral swine; and providing an effective date.

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

¹⁷ SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2011, Section 6-604, is ¹⁸ amended to read as follows:

Section 6-604. A. Except as otherwise specified in the Feral Swine Control Act, any person with permission of the owner may remove feral swine from private or public property during daylight hours.

B. Any person who intends to kill or attempt to kill feral
swine at night shall obtain a permit issued by the Department of

Wildlife Conservation pursuant to Section 4-135 of Title 29 of the 1 Oklahoma Statutes and promulgated rules with permission of the 2 landowner or lessee may remove feral swine from private property during nighttime hours. Any person who attempts to remove feral swine pursuant to this subsection may use an illuminating source or light enhancement device designed to be carried on one's person; provided, that no such device shall be used during designated deer hunting seasons as specified in rules promulgated by the Department 8 of Wildlife Conservation. 9 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 2011, Section 4-135, is 1 0 amended to read as follows: 1 1 Section 4-135. A. The Department of Wildlife Conservation is 1 2 authorized to issue permits to landowners, lessees, or their 1 3 designated agents and to any entity of state, county, or local 1 4 government to control nuisance or damage by any species of wildlife 1 5 including, but not limited to, beaver, coyote, deer, bobcat, 1 6 $raccoon_{7}$ and crow under rules promulgated by the Oklahoma Wildlife 1 7 Conservation Commission. The permits may be issued without 1 8 limitation by statewide season regulations, bag limits or methods of 1 9 taking. A permitted landowner, lessee or a designated agent of the 2 0 landowner or lessee may, with a valid permit issued pursuant to this 2 1 section, control the wildlife specified in this subsection and foral 2 2 swine at night to protect marketable agricultural crops, livestock, 2 3 2 4

or processed feed, seed or other materials used in the production of 1 an agricultural commodity.

Except as otherwise specified in this subsection section, Β. the permit to hunt at night shall be valid for a period of up to one (1) year from the date the permit was issued. Each landowner, lessee, or designated agent with a valid permit shall be required to 6 have a current agricultural exemption permit issued by the Oklahoma Tax Commission. 8

C. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 5-203.1 of this 9 title, a landowner, lessee, or designated agent of the landowner or 1 0 lessee with a valid permit may use a headlight carried on the person 1 1 while hunting at night. Nothing in this section shall authorize the 1 2 use of a headlight mounted on a vehicle or the use of a headlight 1 3 from a public roadway. 1 4

D. Any person who has been convicted of, or pled guilty to, a 1 5 violation of Section 5-203.1 or Section 5-411 of this title within 1 6 the previous three (3) years shall not be eligible to receive a 1 7 permit pursuant to this section. The permit can be issued by the 1 8 local game warden in the county for which the permit is to be used 1 9 or by the Law Enforcement Division of the Department of Wildlife 2 0 Conservation. 2 1

E. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 1289.13 of Title 2 2 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes, it shall be lawful for any private 2 3 landowner or designated employee of the landowner or lessee to have 2 4

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a chamber-loaded firearm on property owned by the landowner, and to use the firearm for the purpose of controlling nuisance or damage by any wildlife or feral swine. Nothing in this section shall authorize any convicted felon to carry a firearm.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 2011, Section 5-203.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 5-203.1 A. No person may attempt to take, take, attempt to catch, catch, attempt to capture, capture, attempt to 8 kill, or kill any deer, feral animal or other wildlife except feral 9 swine as provided by Section 6-604 of Title 2 of the Oklahoma 1 0 Statutes, fish and frogs by the use of a vehicle-mounted spotlight 1 1 1 2 or other powerful light at night, by what is commonly known as "headlighting". Provided, however, nothing in this section shall 1 3 prevent one from possessing a .22 caliber rimfire rifle or .22 1 4 pistol and a light carried while in pursuit of furbearers with 1 5 hounds during the legal, open furbearers season, while possessing a 1 6 valid hunting license. 1 7

B. Any person may use a shotgun, using No. 6 size shot or smaller, longbow, light and a call for the purpose of hunting predatory animals, provided that written permission is obtained from the local game warden for each twenty-four-hour period of hunting.

C. It shall be illegal to hunt from a boat with a firearm from sunset until one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise. This shall not

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pertain to hunting of waterfowl enroute from bank to blind with unloaded shotguns.

Except as otherwise provided for in this section, no person D. may harass, attempt to capture, capture, attempt to take or take, 4 kill or attempt to kill any wildlife with the aid of any motordriven land, air or water conveyance. A nonambulatory person may 6 hunt from said conveyances with written permission of the Director of Wildlife Conservation. A person may hunt from an air conveyance 8 if issued a permit pursuant to Section 1 4-107.2 of this act title. 9 Nothing in this section shall prevent the use of motor-driven land 1 0 or water conveyances for following dogs in the act of hunting, when 1 1 1 2 use is restricted to public roads or waterways. Motor-driven land or water conveyances may be used on private property for following 1 3 dogs in the act of hunting with the permission of the landowner or 1 4 occupant. 1 5

E. Employees of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry Wildlife Services Division and the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services while engaged in wildlife management activities for the protection of agriculture, property, human health and safety and natural resources shall be exempt from the provisions of this section.

F. Any person convicted of violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) for a

1	first offense and not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for a
2	second offense or by imprisonment in the county jail for not less
3	than ten (10) days nor more than one (1) year, or by confiscation
4	pursuant to Section 5-402 of this title or by such fine,
5	imprisonment and confiscation.
6	SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2016.
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8	COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON RULES, dated 02/24/2016 - DO PASS.
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