1 SENATE FLOOR VERSION February 21, 2022 AS AMENDED 2 3 SENATE BILL NO. 1771 By: Dahm 4 5 An Act relating to game and fish; amending 2 O.S. 6 2021, Section 6-604, which relates to the Feral Swine 7 Control Act; expanding authorization to remove feral swine at night; exempting certain persons from licensing and permit requirements; eliminating permit 8 requirement to remove feral swine at night; 9 authorizing the use of motor-driven land conveyance and certain lights and equipment when removing feral swine; amending 29 O.S. 2021, Section 4-135, which 10 relates to permits to control nuisance animals; deleting feral swine from permit requirement; 11 amending 29 O.S. 2021, Section 5-203.1, which relates to headlighting; modifying exceptions to include 12 removing feral swine; updating statutory reference; repealing 2 O.S. 2021, Section 6-605, which relates 13 to special permit to kill feral swine; and providing an effective date. 14 15 16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA: 17 2 O.S. 2021, Section 6-604, is 18 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY amended to read as follows: 19 20 Section 6-604. A. Except as otherwise specified in the Feral Swine Control Act, any person with written permission of the owner 21 may remove feral swine from private or public property during 22 daylight hours or at night. Any person who removes or attempts to 23 24 remove feral swine pursuant to this section shall not be required to

obtain a license to hunt wildlife issued by the Department of

Wildlife Conservation or a permit to control wildlife issued

pursuant to Section 4-135 of Title 29 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

- 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 Oklahoma Statutes and promulgated rules Any person who removes or attempts to remove feral swine pursuant to this section may use a motor-driven land conveyance to pursue or follow feral swine, may use a vehicle-mounted spotlight or other powerful light also known as a headlight, and may use night-vision equipment that uses either image-enhancement technology or thermal-imaging technology.
- SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 2021, Section 4-135, is amended to read as follows:

Section 4-135. A. The Department of Wildlife Conservation is authorized to issue permits to landowners, lessees, or their designated agents and to any entity of state, county, or local government to control nuisance or damage by any species of wildlife including, but not limited to beaver, coyote, deer, bobcat, raccoon, and crow under rules promulgated by the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission. The permits may be issued without limitation by statewide season regulations, bag limits or methods of taking. A permitted landowner, lessee or a designated agent of the landowner or lessee may, with a valid permit issued pursuant to this

- section, control the wildlife specified in this subsection and feral swine at night to protect marketable agricultural crops, livestock, or processed feed, seed or other materials used in the production of an agricultural commodity.
 - B. Except as otherwise specified in this subsection, 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 have a current agricultural exemption permit issued by the Oklahoma Tax Commission.
 - C. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 5-203.1 of this title, a landowner, lessee, or designated agent of the landowner or lessee with a valid permit may use a headlight carried on the person while hunting at night. Nothing in this section shall authorize the use of a headlight mounted on a vehicle or the use of a headlight from a public roadway.
 - D. Any person who has been convicted of, or pled guilty to, a violation of Section 5-203.1 or Section 5-411 of this title within the previous three (3) years shall not be eligible to receive a permit pursuant to this section. The permit can may be issued by the local game warden in the county for which the permit is to be used or by the Law Enforcement Division of the Department of Wildlife Conservation.

E. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 1289.13 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes, it shall be lawful for any private landowner or designated employee of the landowner or lessee to have 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. 2021, 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 kill, or kill any deer, feral animal or other wildlife except fish and, frogs, and feral swine as provided for in Section 6-604 of

Title 2 of the Oklahoma Statutes, by the use of a vehicle mounted spotlight or other powerful light at night, by what is commonly known as "headlighting". Provided, however, nothing in this section shall prevent one from possessing a .22 caliber rimfire rifle or .22 pistol and a light carried while in pursuit of furbearers with hounds during the legal, open furbearers season, while possessing a valid hunting license.

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 pertain to hunting of waterfowl enroute from bank to blind with unloaded shotguns.
- when removing feral swine as provided for in this section and except when removing feral swine as provided for in Section 6-604 of Title 2 of the Oklahoma Statutes, no person may harass, attempt to capture, capture, attempt to take or take, kill or attempt to kill any wildlife or feral swine with the aid of any motor-driven land, air or water conveyance. A nonambulatory person may hunt from said conveyances with written permission of the Director of Wildlife Conservation. A person may hunt from an air conveyance if issued a permit pursuant to Section 1 of this act 4-107.2 of this title.

 Nothing in this section shall prevent the use of motor-driven land or water conveyances for following dogs in the act of hunting, when use is restricted to public roads or waterways. Motor-driven land or water conveyances may be used on private property for following dogs in the act of hunting with the permission of the landowner or occupant.
 - 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,

1 property, human health and safety and natural resources shall be exempt from the provisions of this section. Any person convicted of violating the provisions of this 3 F. section shall be quilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a 4 5 fine of not less than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) for a first offense and not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for a second offense or by imprisonment in the county jail for not less 7 than ten (10) days nor more than one (1) year, or by confiscation 9 pursuant to Section 5-402 of this title or by such fine, imprisonment and confiscation. 10 SECTION 4. REPEALER 2 O.S. 2021, Section 6-605, is 11 12 hereby repealed. 13 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022. COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND WILDLIFE 14 February 21, 2022 - DO PASS AS AMENDED 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24