

1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
2 BILL NO. 1828

By: Bullard of the Senate

3 and

4 Dempsey of the House

5  
6 [ wildlife - velvet buck season - muzzle loaders -  
7 cancelation for certain conditions - codification -  
8 effective date -

emergency ]

9  
10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

11 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
12 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-114.1 of Title 29, unless  
13 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

14 A. Pursuant to Section 5-401 of Title 29 of the Oklahoma  
15 Statutes, the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission is  
16 authorized to declare an open season to hunt and harvest velvet  
17 bucks during the last week of August only in those counties or parts  
18 of counties of this state where, in the judgment of the Commission,  
19 the population of deer exist in sufficient quantity and health to  
20 warrant an open season. An open season to hunt and harvest velvet  
21 bucks shall be declared by a Commission resolution not less than ten  
22 (10) days before the season is opened. The duration of a declared  
23 open season shall not exceed four (4) days and be restricted to a  
24 limit of one velvet buck per hunt during the season.

1 B. The Commission shall authorize muzzle loaders as the sole  
2 method for shooting, hunting, killing, wounding, taking, or  
3 attempting to shoot, hunt, kill, wound, or take any velvet buck  
4 during a declared open season.

5 C. During a declared open season legal residents of Oklahoma  
6 and non-residents may hunt velvet bucks provided the person has a  
7 valid deer license, velvet buck permit, or stamp as otherwise  
8 provided by law in this state. All velvet bucks shot, killed,  
9 wounded, taken, and harvested shall count against the licensee's  
10 annual bag limit for deer in this state.

11 D. The Commission is authorized to prescribe rules necessary  
12 for the proper conduct and policing of a declared open season for  
13 the hunting and harvesting of velvet bucks; the velvet antler size;  
14 the kind of bucks that may be taken; and the dates and time limits  
15 of such season. The Commission shall be authorized to cancel a  
16 declared velvet buck open season for any reason deemed appropriate  
17 including, but not limited to, disease, weather, deer population,  
18 and herd health. Any cancelation of a declared velvet buck open  
19 season shall prohibit the Commission from refunding or crediting any  
20 fees paid for a velvet buck permit, stamp, or license.

21 E. All laws and rules pertaining to velvet bucks in this state  
22 shall be enforceable by the Department of Wildlife Conservation and  
23 its agents. The Commission shall set velvet buck licenses, permits,  
24 and/or stamps by rule.

1 F. The Commission is authorized to require by rule that any  
2 person participating in a declared velvet buck open season or  
3 hunting in open areas during a declared velvet buck open season to  
4 procure a special permit, stamp, or license to participate in a  
5 declared velvet buck open season or to hunt in such open areas  
6 during a declared velvet buck open season and may charge residents  
7 and nonresidents fees and such other compensation for those Oklahoma  
8 surface holders participating in the Acres for Wildlife Program.  
9 The rate of such fees and compensation shall be determined by the  
10 Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission. No exemptions shall be  
11 permitted.

12 G. Velvet buck open seasons, closed seasons, bag limits, catch  
13 limits, possession limits, and territorial limitations set forth in  
14 law or rule are hereby declared to be based on the existence of a  
15 normal population of deer prior to the Commission declaring a velvet  
16 buck open season. Such seasons, catch limits, bag limits,  
17 possession limits, and territorial limitations as set by law or rule  
18 shall prevail and be in full force and effect for deer so long as  
19 the population or numbers of deer remain normal in areas of this  
20 state.

21 H. For purposes of this section:

- 22 1. "Velvet buck" means a male deer with velvet antler; and
- 23 2. "Velvet antler" means the whole cartilaginous antler is  
24 exhibited in a precalcified growth stage of the Cervidae family.

1 The deer antler must be covered in velvet-like hair that is  
2 essentially skin that supplies nutrients and blood flow to the  
3 growing bone and antler underneath.

4 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2022.

5 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
6 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
7 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
8 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

9 Passed the Senate the 14th day of March, 2022.

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11 \_\_\_\_\_  
12 Presiding Officer of the Senate

13 Passed the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
14 2022.

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17 Presiding Officer of the House  
18 of Representatives