

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE AMENDMENT

TO

2 ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 776

By: Murdock and Hamilton of the
Senate

3

and

4

Newton of the House

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An Act relating to game and fish; amending 29 O.S.
2011, Section 3-103, as last amended by Section 1,
Chapter 24, O.S.L. 2017 (29 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section
3-103), which relates to the Wildlife Conservation
Commission; modifying authority relating to the
acquisition of land; requiring land to be publicly
offered for sale at fair market value; and providing
an effective date.

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13 AUTHOR: Add the following House Coauthor: Worthen

14 AMENDMENT NO. 1. Strike the title, enacting clause, and entire bill
and insert:

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"An Act relating to professions and occupations;
amending 59 O.S. 2021, Section 698.33, which relates
to the Oklahoma Veterinary Practice Act; modifying
veterinary training program for rural Oklahoma;
updating references; and declaring an emergency.

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

23 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 59 O.S. 2021, Section 698.33, is

24 amended to read as follows:

1 Section 698.33 A. There is hereby established the veterinary
2 training program for rural Oklahoma to be administered by the
3 Oklahoma State University ~~Center for~~ College of Veterinary Health
4 ~~Sciences~~ Medicine. The program shall be developed and implemented
5 in order to provide encouragement, opportunities and incentives for
6 persons pursuing a veterinary medicine degree at Oklahoma State
7 University to locate their veterinary practice in rural Oklahoma
8 communities, and receive specialized training targeted to meet the
9 needs of livestock producers in rural Oklahoma communities.

10 B. Subject to available funds, each year the Veterinary ~~Center~~
11 College may enter into program agreements with up to ~~three first-~~
12 ~~year~~ five veterinary students ~~or currently practicing large animal~~
13 ~~veterinarians with qualifying school loans, as determined by the~~
14 ~~Veterinary Center~~. Preference shall be given to those students ~~and~~
15 focused on large animal ~~veterinarians~~ veterinary medicine who are
16 Oklahoma residents and who agree to serve in a community as
17 described in paragraph 3 of subsection D of this section, which is
18 determined by the Veterinary ~~Center~~ College to be an underserved
19 area for the practice of veterinary medicine.

20 C. Subject to available funds, each student ~~or large animal~~
21 ~~veterinarian~~ entering into a program agreement under this section
22 shall receive assistance in an amount not to exceed Twenty Thousand
23 Dollars (\$20,000.00) per year for not more than four (4) years for
24 tuition, books, supplies and other school expenses, and travel and

1 training expenses incurred by the student in pursuing a veterinary
2 medicine degree. Upon satisfaction of all commitments under the
3 provisions of the agreement and the provisions of this section, the
4 financial obligations pursuant to this section shall be deemed
5 satisfied and forgiven.

6 D. Each program agreement shall require that the person
7 receiving the assistance:

8 1. Complete the veterinary medicine degree program at ~~the~~
9 ~~Veterinary Center~~ Oklahoma State University;

10 2. Complete all requirements in public health, livestock
11 biosecurity, foreign animal disease diagnosis, regulatory veterinary
12 medicine and zoonotic disease, and an externship and mentoring
13 requirement with a licensed, accredited veterinarian in rural
14 Oklahoma as required by the ~~Veterinary Center~~ College;

15 3. Engage in the full-time practice of veterinary medicine in
16 any community in Oklahoma which has a population not exceeding
17 twenty-five thousand (25,000) as determined by the most recent
18 Federal Decennial Census at the time the person entered into the
19 program agreement for a period of at least twelve (12) continuous
20 months for each separate year a student receives assistance under
21 the program, unless the obligation is otherwise satisfied as
22 provided in this section. If, after the date a program agreement
23 was entered into by the parties, a community no longer meets the
24 maximum population requirements provided in this paragraph, a person

1 engaging in the full-time practice of veterinary medicine pursuant
2 to the program agreement shall continue to practice in that
3 designated community; and

4 4. Commence the full-time practice of veterinary medicine in
5 that community within ninety (90) days after completion of the
6 person's degree program, or if the person enters a postdegree
7 training program, such as a graduate school or internship or
8 residency program, within ninety (90) days after completion of the
9 postdegree training program.

10 E. Upon the failure of a person to satisfy the obligation to
11 engage in the full-time practice of veterinary medicine in
12 accordance with the provisions of this section, that person shall
13 repay to the Veterinary ~~Center~~ College, within ninety (90) days of
14 the failure, the amount equal to the assistance provided to the
15 person less a prorated amount based on any periods of practice of
16 veterinary medicine meeting the requirements of this section, plus
17 interest at the prime rate of interest plus ~~two~~ four percent ~~(2%)~~
18 (4%) from the date the assistance accrued. The interest shall be
19 compounded annually.

20 F. An obligation to engage in the practice of veterinary
21 medicine in accordance with the provisions of this section shall be
22 postponed during:
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1 1. Any period of temporary medical disability during which the
2 person obligated is unable to practice veterinary medicine due to
3 the disability; and

4 2. Any other period of postponement agreed to or determined in
5 accordance with criteria agreed to in the practice agreement.

6 G. An obligation to engage in the practice of veterinary
7 medicine in accordance with the provisions of the agreement and this
8 section shall be satisfied:

9 1. If the obligation to engage in the practice of veterinary
10 medicine in accordance with the agreement has been completed;

11 2. If, because of permanent disability, the person obligated is
12 unable to practice veterinary medicine; or

13 3. The person who is obligated dies.

14 H. The Veterinary ~~Center~~ College may adopt additional
15 provisions, requirements or conditions to participate in this
16 program as are practicable and appropriate to accomplish the
17 provisions of the program or may be required for the implementation
18 or administration of the program, and are not inconsistent with the
19 provisions of this section.

20 I. The Veterinary ~~Center~~ College shall not enter into any
21 program agreements pursuant to the provisions of this section after
22 July 1, 2025. All agreements entered into prior to such date shall
23 be valid.

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1 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
2 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
3 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
4 be in full force from and after its passage and approval."

5 Passed the House of Representatives the 25th day of April, 2022.

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8 Presiding Officer of the House of
9 Representatives

10 Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2022.

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13 Presiding Officer of the Senate

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6 An Act relating to game and fish; amending 29 O.S.
7 2011, Section 3-103, as last amended by Section 1,
8 Chapter 24, O.S.L. 2017 (29 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section
9 3-103), which relates to the Wildlife Conservation
10 Commission; modifying authority relating to the
11 acquisition of land; requiring land to be publicly
12 offered for sale at fair market value; and providing
13 an effective date.

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

15 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 2011, Section 3-103, as
16 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 24, O.S.L. 2017 (29 O.S. Supp.
17 2020, Section 3-103), is amended to read as follows:

18 Section 3-103. A. The Wildlife Conservation Commission shall
19 constitute an advisory, administrative and policymaking board for
20 the protection, restoration, perpetuation, conservation,
21 supervision, maintenance, enhancement, and management of wildlife in
22 this state as provided in the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Code.

23 B. The Director shall consult with the Commission regarding the
24 administration of the affairs of the Department of Wildlife
Conservation. The Commission is authorized and empowered to require
from the Director complete reports and information relative to the

1 affairs of the Department at the time and in the manner the
2 Commission may deem advisable.

3 C. The Commission shall meet in regular session at least nine
4 times per year not to exceed one meeting per month with not more
5 than two consecutive calendar months between meetings and in special
6 sessions as may be called by the Chair or a majority of the
7 Commission. The Commission may hold any regular or special session
8 at any location within this state. Should a location be chosen
9 other than Commission headquarters in Oklahoma City for a regular or
10 special meeting, notice shall be posted at Commission headquarters
11 in Oklahoma City and advertised in the local newspaper of the city
12 in which the meeting is to be held, at least one time during each of
13 the two (2) weeks prior to the meeting. The advertisements shall
14 include time, date, and address of location of the meeting.

15 D. In addition to the other powers and duties prescribed by
16 law, the Commission shall:

17 1. Institute an affirmative action plan for hiring women and
18 minorities throughout the agency;

19 2. Elect a chair, vice-chair, and secretary, who shall perform
20 the duties required of them by statutes, rules of the Commission,
21 and the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma. The chair, vice-
22 chair, and secretary shall receive no extra compensation;

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1 3. Appoint a Director, and determine the qualifications of the
2 Director and all assistants and employees. A Commissioner shall not
3 be eligible for employment in any position within the Department;

4 4. Prescribe rules and policies for the transaction of its
5 business and the control of the Department;

6 5. Develop and implement a plan to provide step raises for
7 Commission employees so that discrepancies of pay levels within a
8 pay grade are eliminated;

9 6. Acquire by purchase, lease, gift, or devise, waters, real
10 property, and personal property incident to the exercise of its
11 functions and to maintain, operate, and dispose of the same;

12 7. Acquire real property by condemnation only when the Attorney
13 General or other counsel deems it an appropriate means of clearing
14 title from willing or unavailable sellers;

15 8. Acquire land at a price that is no more than the appraised
16 value only after the land has been publicly offered for sale for a
17 minimum of six (6) months at a fair market value;

18 9. Supervise the establishment, extension, improvement, and
19 operation of the wildlife refuges, propagation areas or stations,
20 public hunting areas, public fishing areas, game management areas,
21 and fish hatcheries;

22 ~~9.~~ 10. Prescribe the manner of cooperation with the Oklahoma
23 Tourism and Recreation Department, colleges and universities within
24 the state, other state agencies, any agency of the federal

1 government, and any city, town, school district, or any other agency
2 or organization in study of conservation and propagation of wildlife
3 and in the establishment, maintenance, and operation of visual
4 educational facilities, recreational facilities, and hunting and
5 fishing facilities, in the study and propagation of wildlife;

6 ~~10.~~ 11. Supervise the letting of all contracts and purchases
7 for the Department, with all purchases of personal property to be
8 made through the Office of Management and Enterprise Services;

9 ~~11.~~ 12. Authorize all claims or expenditures prior to incurring
10 payment except as otherwise provided in this Code;

11 ~~12.~~ 13. Prescribe rules on the use of Department-owned vehicles
12 by the Director, department heads and other essential employees as
13 the Commission deems necessary in order to perform their duties;

14 ~~13.~~ 14. Prescribe rules for the sale of all regular or special
15 licenses;

16 ~~14.~~ 15. Publicize and encourage the conservation and
17 appreciation of wildlife and all other natural resources;

18 ~~15.~~ 16. Regulate the seasons and harvest of wildlife;

19 ~~16.~~ 17. Promulgate rules to sell fishing and hunting licenses
20 via the Internet;

21 ~~17.~~ 18. Annually report to the Governor and the Legislature on
22 the complete operation, activities, and plans of the Department,
23 together with such recommendations for future activities as the
24 Commission may deem to be in the best interest of the state; and

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~~18.~~ 19. Provide the Governor and the Legislature with an annual inventory of all property and equipment.

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

Passed the Senate the 3rd day of March, 2021.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____, 2021.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives