

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

3 SENATE BILL NO. 945

By: Murdock

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to hunting; setting dates for deer
8 gun and deer archery season; amending 29 O.S. 2011,
9 Section 3-103, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter
10 24, O.S.L. 2017 (29 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 3-103),
11 which relates to the functions, powers and duties of
the Wildlife Conservation Commission; providing
exception to the authority to regulate seasons;
providing for codification; and providing an
effective date.

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

15 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-603 of Title 29, unless there
17 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 A. The dates for the deer gun season shall be the Saturday
19 prior to the fourth Thursday in November and run for seventeen (17)
20 consecutive days in management zones as designated by Wildlife
21 Conservation Commission resolution.

22 B. The dates for the deer archery season shall be October 1
23 through January 5.

1 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 2011, Section 3-103, as
2 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 24, O.S.L. 2017 (29 O.S. Supp.
3 2018, Section 3-103), is amended to read as follows:

4 Section 3-103. A. The Wildlife Conservation Commission shall
5 constitute an advisory, administrative and policymaking board for
6 the protection, restoration, perpetuation, conservation,
7 supervision, maintenance, enhancement, and management of wildlife in
8 this state as provided in the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Code.

9 B. The Director shall consult with the Commission regarding the
10 administration of the affairs of the Department of Wildlife
11 Conservation. The Commission is authorized and empowered to require
12 from the Director complete reports and information relative to the
13 affairs of the Department at the time and in the manner the
14 Commission may deem advisable.

15 C. The Commission shall meet in regular session at least nine
16 times per year not to exceed one meeting per month with not more
17 than two consecutive calendar months between meetings and in special
18 sessions as may be called by the Chair or a majority of the
19 Commission. The Commission may hold any regular or special session
20 at any location within this state. Should a location be chosen
21 other than Commission headquarters in Oklahoma City for a regular or
22 special meeting, notice shall be posted at Commission headquarters
23 in Oklahoma City and advertised in the local newspaper of the city
24 in which the meeting is to be held, at least one time during each of

1 the two (2) weeks prior to the meeting. The advertisements shall
2 include time, date, and address of location of the meeting.

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

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

7 2. Elect a chair, vice-chair, and secretary, who shall perform
8 the duties required of them by statutes, rules of the Commission,
9 and the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma. The chair, vice-
10 chair, and secretary shall receive no extra compensation;

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

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

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

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

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

1 8. Supervise the establishment, extension, improvement, and
2 operation of the wildlife refuges, propagation areas or stations,
3 public hunting areas, public fishing areas, game management areas,
4 and fish hatcheries;

5 9. Prescribe the manner of cooperation with the Oklahoma
6 Tourism and Recreation Department, colleges and universities within
7 the state, other state agencies, any agency of the federal
8 government, and any city, town, school district, or any other agency
9 or organization in study of conservation and propagation of wildlife
10 and in the establishment, maintenance, and operation of visual
11 educational facilities, recreational facilities, and hunting and
12 fishing facilities, in the study and propagation of wildlife;

13 10. Supervise the letting of all contracts and purchases for
14 the Department, with all purchases of personal property to be made
15 through the Office of Management and Enterprise Services;

16 11. Authorize all claims or expenditures prior to incurring
17 payment except as otherwise provided in this Code;

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

21 13. Prescribe rules for the sale of all regular or special
22 licenses;

23 14. Publicize and encourage the conservation and appreciation
24 of wildlife and all other natural resources;

1 15. Regulate the seasons and harvest of wildlife, provided that
2 the dates for deer gun and archery hunting seasons shall be
3 established pursuant to Section 1 of this act;

4 16. Promulgate rules to sell fishing and hunting licenses via
5 the Internet;

6 17. Annually report to the Governor and the Legislature on the
7 complete operation, activities, and plans of the Department,
8 together with such recommendations for future activities as the
9 Commission may deem to be in the best interest of the state; and

10 18. Provide the Governor and the Legislature with an annual
11 inventory of all property and equipment.

12 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective October 1, 2019.

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