

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

SENATE BILL 967

By: Green

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to fish and wildlife; amending 29 O.S. 2021, Section 4-112, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 208, O.S.L. 2022 (29 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section 4-112), which relates to hunting licenses; excluding certain game from certain licensure; including certain game for certain licensure; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 2021, Section 4-112, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 208, O.S.L. 2022 (29 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section 4-112), is amended to read as follows:

Section 4-112. A. Except as otherwise provided for in the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Code or the Oklahoma Farmed Cervidae Act, no person may hunt, pursue, trap, harass, catch, kill, take or attempt to take in any manner, use, have in possession, sell, or transport all or any portion of any wildlife except fish, without having first procured a license from the Department of Wildlife Conservation. The Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission shall designate a consecutive Saturday and Sunday in September of each

1 year as free hunting days in which residents of this state may hunt  
2 without first procuring a hunting license pursuant to the provisions  
3 of this section.

4 B. The following legal residents of Oklahoma shall be exempt  
5 from the annual hunting license requirement of paragraph 1 of  
6 subsection E of this section and the following nonresidents shall be  
7 exempt from the annual nonresident hunting licenses required  
8 pursuant to paragraph 1 of subsection C of this section:

9 1. Legal residents under sixteen (16) years of age;

10 2. Legal residents sixty-five (65) years of age or older  
11 provided they have obtained a senior citizen lifetime hunting or  
12 combination hunting and fishing license pursuant to the provisions  
13 of Section 4-114 of this title;

14 3. Legal residents born on or before January 1, 1923;

15 4. Legal resident veterans having a disability of sixty percent  
16 (60%) or more and registered with the veterans registry created by  
17 the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs; provided, that if the  
18 veteran has previously received an exemption pursuant to this  
19 paragraph, no registration with the veterans registry shall be  
20 required;

21 5. Legal resident owners or tenants who hunt on land owned or  
22 leased by them;

23 6. Any nonresident under fourteen (14) years of age;

1           7. Legal residents having a proven disability which renders  
2 them nonambulatory and confines them to a wheelchair, as certified  
3 by a physician licensed in this state or in any state which borders  
4 this state;

5           8. Any legal resident or nonresident under eighteen (18) years  
6 of age who is in the physical custody of a child care facility as  
7 defined by Section 402 of Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

8           9. Any legal resident or nonresident hunting, pursuing,  
9 trapping, harassing, catching, killing, taking, or attempting to  
10 take in any manner any species of rattlesnake during an organized  
11 rattlesnake-hunting event or festival and who has a rattlesnake  
12 permit issued pursuant to Section 4-143 of this title.

13           C. Except as otherwise provided for in the Oklahoma Wildlife  
14 Conservation Code, the nonresident hunting licenses issued pursuant  
15 to this section and the fee for each license shall be:

16           1. Annual hunting license for nonresidents hunting game other  
17 than deer, antelope, elk or bear which expires one (1) year after  
18 the date of issuance - One Hundred Seventy-five Dollars (\$175.00).  
19 Nonresidents hunting big game or combination big game ~~and upland~~  
20 ~~game~~ in a commercial hunting area shall be required to have this  
21 license;

22           2. Gun hunting license for deer for nonresidents which shall be  
23 valid for hunting all deer allowed during the current calendar year  
24 deer gun season - Two Hundred Seventy-nine Dollars (\$279.00);

1 3. Archery hunting license for deer for nonresidents which  
2 shall expire on January 15 of the calendar year after the year  
3 purchased or if purchased during the deer archery season it shall  
4 expire at the end of that deer archery season - Two Hundred Seventy-  
5 nine Dollars (\$279.00);

6 4. Primitive firearms hunting license for deer for nonresidents  
7 which shall be valid for hunting all deer allowed during the current  
8 calendar year deer primitive firearms season - Two Hundred Seventy-  
9 nine Dollars (\$279.00);

10 5. Hunting license for antelope for nonresidents - Three  
11 Hundred Five Dollars (\$305.00);

12 6. Hunting license for elk for nonresidents - Three Hundred  
13 Five Dollars (\$305.00);

14 7. Five-day hunting license for nonresidents hunting game other  
15 than deer, antelope, elk, ~~quail,~~ turkey, or bear - Seventy-four  
16 Dollars (\$74.00). Nonresidents hunting big game or combination big  
17 game ~~and upland game~~ in a commercial hunting area shall be required  
18 to have this license; and

19 8. Ten-day hunting license for nonresidents hunting small game  
20 and upland game in a commercial hunting area - Five Dollars (\$5.00).

21 D. Of the fees collected pursuant to the provisions of  
22 subsection C of this section:

23 1. Five Dollars (\$5.00) of the license fee of each license  
24 issued pursuant to paragraphs 1 through 7 of subsection C of this

1 section and Two Dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) of the license fee  
2 for each license issued pursuant to paragraph 8 of subsection C of  
3 this section shall be deposited in the Wildlife Land Acquisition  
4 Fund created pursuant to the provisions of Section 4-132 of this  
5 title; and

6 2. Five Dollars (\$5.00) of the license fee for each license  
7 issued pursuant to paragraphs 1 through 8 of subsection C of this  
8 section shall be for the Oklahoma Wildlife Land Stamp and shall be  
9 deposited in the Oklahoma Wildlife Land Fund created pursuant to the  
10 provisions of Section 4-141 of this title.

11 E. Except as otherwise provided, the annual resident hunting  
12 licenses issued pursuant to this subsection shall expire one (1)  
13 year after the date of issuance. The resident hunting licenses  
14 issued pursuant to this section and the fee for each license shall  
15 be:

16 1. Annual hunting license for residents eighteen (18) years of  
17 age and older - Thirty-one Dollars (\$31.00);

18 2. Annual hunting license for residents sixteen (16) or  
19 seventeen (17) years of age - Six Dollars (\$6.00);

20 3. Ten-day hunting license for residents for small game in a  
21 commercial hunting area - Five Dollars (\$5.00);

22 4. Five-year disability hunting license for residents for at  
23 least six (6) months who are receiving Social Security Disability  
24 benefits, Supplemental Security Income benefits or disability

1 benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act, 45 U.S.C.A., Section  
2 231a, or residents who are one-hundred-percent disabled and are  
3 receiving disability payments from the Multiple Injury Trust Fund  
4 pursuant to Section 31 of Title 85A of the Oklahoma Statutes - Ten  
5 Dollars (\$10.00);

6 5. Gun hunting license for deer for residents eighteen (18)  
7 years of age or older - Nineteen Dollars (\$19.00). The following  
8 persons shall be exempt:

9 a. residents with proper certification from the United  
10 States Department of Veterans Affairs or its  
11 successor, certifying that the person is a disabled  
12 veteran in receipt of compensation at the one-hundred-  
13 percent rate and registered with the veterans registry  
14 created by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans  
15 Affairs; provided, that if the veteran has previously  
16 received an exemption pursuant to this subparagraph,  
17 no registration with the veterans registry shall be  
18 required, and

19 b. residents hunting in big game or combination big game  
20 and upland game commercial hunting areas;

21 6. Gun hunting license for deer for residents under eighteen  
22 (18) years of age - Nine Dollars (\$9.00);  
23  
24  
25

1           7. Archery hunting license for deer for residents eighteen (18)  
2 years of age or older - Nineteen Dollars (\$19.00). The following  
3 persons shall be exempt:

4           a. residents with proper certification from the United  
5 States Department of Veterans Affairs or its  
6 successor, certifying that the person is a disabled  
7 veteran in receipt of compensation at the one-hundred-  
8 percent rate and registered with the veterans registry  
9 created by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans  
10 Affairs; provided, that if the veteran has previously  
11 received the exemption pursuant to this subparagraph,  
12 no registration with the veterans registry shall be  
13 required, and

14           b. residents hunting in big game or combination big game  
15 and upland game commercial hunting areas;

16           8. Archery hunting license for deer for residents under  
17 eighteen (18) years of age - Nine Dollars (\$9.00);

18           9. Primitive firearms hunting license for deer for residents  
19 eighteen (18) years of age or older - Nineteen Dollars (\$19.00).

20 The following persons shall be exempt:

21           a. residents with proper certification from the United  
22 States Department of Veterans Affairs or its  
23 successor, certifying that the person is a disabled  
24 veteran in receipt of compensation at the one-hundred-

1 percent rate and registered with the veterans registry  
2 created by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans  
3 Affairs; provided, that if the veteran has previously  
4 received the exemption pursuant to this subparagraph,  
5 no registration with the veterans registry shall be  
6 required, and

7 b. residents hunting in big game or combination big game  
8 and upland game commercial hunting areas;

9 10. Primitive firearms hunting license for deer for residents  
10 under eighteen (18) years of age - Nine Dollars (\$9.00);

11 11. Hunting license for elk for residents - Fifty Dollars  
12 (\$50.00). Residents hunting in big game or combination big game and  
13 upland game commercial hunting areas shall be exempt from this  
14 license;

15 12. Hunting license for antelope for residents - Fifty Dollars  
16 (\$50.00). Residents hunting in big game or combination big game and  
17 upland game commercial hunting areas shall be exempt from this  
18 license; and

19 13. Bonus, special or additional gun hunting license for deer  
20 for residents - Nineteen Dollars (\$19.00). The following persons  
21 shall be exempt:

22 a. residents with proper certification from the United  
23 States Department of Veterans Affairs or its  
24 successor, certifying that the person is a disabled



1           veteran in receipt of compensation at the one-hundred-  
2           percent rate and registered with the veterans registry  
3           created by the Oklahoma Department of Veterans  
4           Affairs; provided, that if the veteran has previously  
5           received the exemption pursuant to this subparagraph,  
6           no registration with the veterans registry shall be  
7           required, and

8           b.   residents hunting in big game or combination big game  
9           and upland game commercial hunting areas.

10          F.   Of the fees collected pursuant to the provisions of  
11         paragraph 1 of subsection E of this section, Five Dollars (\$5.00) of  
12         the license fee shall be for the Oklahoma Wildlife Land Stamp and  
13         shall be deposited in the Oklahoma Wildlife Land Fund created  
14         pursuant to the provisions of Section 4-141 of this title.

15          G.   The provisions of this section shall not be construed to  
16         require a hunting license, resident or nonresident, of any person  
17         merely because the person participates, as owner or handler of an  
18         entry, as an official, or as a spectator in the conduct of a field  
19         trial or performance test of dogs, whether a resident or nonresident  
20         of this state. No license to hunt shall be required of any person  
21         engaged in training or working dogs, provided that person is in no  
22         way engaged in hunting and does not take or attempt to take in any  
23         manner any game.

1 H. 1. Any person arrested for hunting game other than deer,  
2 antelope, elk, bear or turkey without a valid hunting license as  
3 required by the provisions of subsection A of this section may  
4 purchase a substitute temporary thirty-day license from the  
5 arresting game warden in lieu of posting bond. Proof of hunter  
6 safety certification will not be required for the temporary  
7 substitute license. The fee for a substitute license purchased  
8 pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall be:

- 9 a. for legal residents, Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), and  
10 b. for nonresidents, One Hundred Forty-five Dollars  
11 (\$145.00).

12 2. Except as otherwise provided for by this subsection, the  
13 fees from licenses purchased pursuant to the provisions of this  
14 subsection shall be deposited in the Wildlife Conservation Fund to  
15 be used exclusively for developing, managing, preserving, and  
16 protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat.

17 I. Any person producing proof in court that a current hunting  
18 license issued by the Department of Wildlife Conservation to that  
19 person was in force at the time of the alleged offense shall be  
20 entitled to dismissal of a charge of violating this section upon  
21 payment of court costs. If proof of a current hunting license  
22 issued by the Department to the person that was in force at the time  
23 of the alleged offense is presented to the court or district  
24

1 attorney within seventy-two (72) hours after the violation, the  
2 charge shall be dismissed without payment of court costs.

3 J. Unless a substitute license is purchased as provided for by  
4 subsection H of this section, any resident convicted of violating  
5 the provisions of this section shall be punished by the imposition  
6 of a fine of not less than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) nor more  
7 than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00), or by imprisonment in the county  
8 jail for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days, or by both.

9 K. Unless a substitute license is purchased as provided for by  
10 subsection H of this section, any nonresident convicted of violating  
11 the provisions of this section shall be punished by the imposition  
12 of a fine of not less than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) nor more  
13 than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by imprisonment in the  
14 county jail for a period not to exceed six (6) months, or by both.

15 L. The Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission shall  
16 promulgate any rules necessary to implement the provisions of this  
17 section.

18 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

19  
20 59-1-1063 MR 1/19/2023 11:47:38 AM