

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 HOUSE BILL 2265

By: Patzkowsky

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to game and fish; authorizing
8 Department of Wildlife Conservation to require
9 antelope tags; prohibiting tag or bag limit for
10 antelope; amending 29 O.S. 2011, Section 3-103, as
11 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 24, O.S.L. 2017
12 (29 O.S. Supp. 2018, Section 3-103), which relates to
13 the Wildlife Conservation Commission; requiring deer
14 and antelope hunting seasons to run concurrently;
15 providing for codification; and providing an
16 effective date.

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

18 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4-204 of Title 29, unless there
20 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 The Department of Wildlife Conservation may require persons
22 taking or removing an antelope to attach a tag to the killed
23 antelope; provided, that there shall be no limit on tags issued for
24 antelope or a yearly statewide bag limit for antelope.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 8. Supervise the establishment, extension, improvement, and
24 operation of the wildlife refuges, propagation areas or stations,

1 public hunting areas, public fishing areas, game management areas,
2 and fish hatcheries;

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

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

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

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

19 13. Prescribe rules for the sale of all regular or special
20 licenses;

21 14. Publicize and encourage the conservation and appreciation
22 of wildlife and all other natural resources;

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1 15. Regulate the seasons and harvest of wildlife; provided,
2 that the dates for deer and antelope hunting seasons shall run
3 concurrently;

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 November 1, 2019.

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