

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR ENGROSSED
HOUSE BILL 2029

By: Cornwell of the House

and

Murdock of the Senate

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

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. 2018, Section 3-103), which relates to the powers and duties of the Wildlife Conservation Commission; limiting the Commission's authority to regulate certain hunting seasons; establishing dates for certain hunting seasons; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. 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:

Section 3-103. A. The Wildlife Conservation Commission shall constitute an advisory, administrative and policymaking board for the protection, restoration, perpetuation, conservation,

1 supervision, maintenance, enhancement, and management of wildlife in
2 this state as provided in the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Code.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 9. Prescribe the manner of cooperation with the Oklahoma
24 Tourism and Recreation Department, colleges and universities within

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 15. Regulate the seasons and harvest of wildlife; provided that
20 the dates for deer gun hunting season shall be established pursuant
21 to Section 2 of this act;

22 16. Promulgate rules to sell fishing and hunting licenses via
23 the Internet;

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

5 18. Provide the Governor and the Legislature with an annual
6 inventory of all property and equipment.

7 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
8 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-603 of Title 29, unless there
9 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

10 The dates for the deer gun season shall be the Saturday prior to
11 the fourth Thursday in November and run for twenty-three (23)
12 consecutive days only on private land.

13 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2019.

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