

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 1728

By: Moore, Archer and Menz of
the House

3 and

4 Murdock of the Senate
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8 An Act relating to invasive Salt Cedars; creating the
9 Salt Cedar Eradication Act; defining terms; creating
10 certain program; directing the Oklahoma Conservation
11 Commission to oversee and implement the program along
12 with cooperation from certain state agencies;
13 authorizing the Oklahoma Conservation Commission to
14 utilize certain funds; stating purpose of program;
15 listing certain duties; authorizing the promulgation
16 of rules and procedures; requiring certain annual
17 report; creating the Salt Cedar Eradication Revolving
18 Fund; providing for content of fund; providing for
19 deposits and expenditures; providing for
20 codification; providing an effective date; and
21 declaring an emergency.
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BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-8-201 of Title 27A, unless
there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Salt Cedar
Eradication Act".

1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-8-202 of Title 27A, unless
3 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. As used in this act:

5 1. "Eligible landowners" means private, tribal, and public
6 landowners in Oklahoma counties within the Upper Red River Basin;

7 2. "Eradication" means the removal or substantial reduction of
8 Salt Cedar populations to a level where they no longer pose a
9 significant threat; and

10 3. "Salt Cedar" means all species within the genus Tamarix
11 identified as invasive or noxious in Oklahoma.

12 B. There is hereby created a program to control and eradicate
13 invasive Salt Cedar species in Oklahoma counties within the Upper
14 Red River Basin and is to be administered by the Oklahoma
15 Conservation Commission in collaboration with the Oklahoma
16 Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry and the Oklahoma Water
17 Resources Board. To accomplish the goals listed in this section,
18 the Commission is authorized to use the funds available in the Salt
19 Cedar Eradication Revolving Fund established in Section 3 of this
20 act. The purpose of the program is to manage and eradicate invasive
21 Salt Cedar species in Oklahoma counties within the Upper Red River
22 Basin, to enhance water resources, restore native ecosystems, and
23 protect agricultural productivity.

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1 C. The Oklahoma Conservation Commission, in collaboration with
2 the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry and the
3 Oklahoma Water Resources Board, shall establish and oversee the Salt
4 Cedar eradication program which shall include:

5 1. Conducting surveys to identify and map Salt Cedar
6 infestations in Oklahoma counties within the Upper Red River Basin;

7 2. Developing and implementing science-based eradication
8 strategies, including mechanical removal, chemical treatments, and
9 biological controls;

10 3. Providing technical and financial assistance to eligible
11 landowners; and

12 4. Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of eradication
13 efforts.

14 D. The Oklahoma Conservation Commission shall establish
15 guidelines for participation, including cost-sharing arrangements
16 and reimbursement opportunities.

17 E. The Oklahoma Conservation Commission is authorized to
18 promulgate any rules and procedures to effectuate the provisions of
19 this act.

20 F. The Oklahoma Conservation Commission shall submit an annual
21 report to the Governor, Speaker of the Oklahoma House of
22 Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State
23 Senate, and the chairs of the appropriation committees of the
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1 Oklahoma House of Representatives and the Oklahoma State Senate
2 outlining the following:

- 3 1. Progress of eradication efforts;
- 4 2. Expenditures and funding needs; and
- 5 3. Recommendations for continued Salt Cedar management.

6 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
7 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-8-203 of Title 27A, unless
8 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

9 There is hereby created in the State Treasury a revolving fund
10 for the Oklahoma Conservation Commission to be designated the "Salt
11 Cedar Eradication Revolving Fund". The fund shall be a continuing
12 fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of
13 all monies received by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission from
14 appropriations, federal grants or funds, municipal contributions,
15 private contributions, and any other sources, including interest
16 earned from the income in the fund, that are designated for deposit
17 to such fund or designated for duties associated with removal and
18 eradication of Salt Cedars in Oklahoma counties within the Upper Red
19 River Basin. All monies accruing to the credit of said fund are
20 hereby appropriated and may be budgeted and expended by the Oklahoma
21 Conservation Commission to perform the duties imposed on the
22 Commission by law. Expenditures from said fund shall be made upon
23 warrants issued by the State Treasurer against claims filed as

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1 prescribed by law with the Director of the Office of Management and
2 Enterprise Services for approval and payment.

3 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

4 SECTION 5. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
5 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
6 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
7 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

8 Passed the House of Representatives the 26th day of February,
9 2025.

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11 _____
12 Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

13 Passed the Senate the _____ day of _____, 2025.

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16 Presiding Officer of the Senate