

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
5 FOR
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 1728

By: Moore of the House

and

Murdock of the Senate

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10 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

11 An Act relating to invasive salt cedars; creating the
12 Salt Cedar Eradication Act; defining terms; creating
13 certain program; directing the Oklahoma Conservation
14 Commission to oversee and implement the program along
15 with cooperation from certain state agencies;
16 authorizing the Oklahoma Conservation Commission to
17 utilize certain funds; stating purpose of program;
18 listing certain duties; authorizing the promulgation
19 of rules and procedures; requiring certain annual
20 report; creating the Salt Cedar Eradication Revolving
21 Fund; providing for content of fund; providing for
22 deposits and expenditures; providing for
23 codification; providing an effective date; and
24 declaring an emergency.

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:

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

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

6 A. As used in this act:

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

9 2. "Eradication" means the removal or substantial reduction of
10 salt cedar populations to a level where they no longer pose a
11 significant threat; and

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

14 B. There is hereby created a program to control and eradicate
15 invasive salt cedar species in Oklahoma counties within the Upper
16 Red River Basin and is to be administered by the Oklahoma
17 Conservation Commission in collaboration with the Oklahoma
18 Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry and the Oklahoma Water
19 Resources Board. To accomplish the goals listed in this section,
20 the Commission is authorized to use the funds available in the Salt
21 Cedar Eradication Program Revolving Fund established in Section 3 of
22 this act. The purpose of the program is to manage and eradicate
23 invasive salt cedar species in Oklahoma counties within the Upper
24

1 Red River Basin, to enhance water resources, restore native
2 ecosystems, and protect agricultural productivity.

3 C. The Oklahoma Conservation Commission, in collaboration with
4 the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry and the
5 Oklahoma Water Resources Board shall establish and oversee the Salt
6 Cedar Eradication Program which shall include:

7 1. Conducting surveys to identify and map salt cedar
8 infestations in Oklahoma counties within the Upper Red River Basin;

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

12 3. Providing technical and financial assistance to eligible
13 landowners; and

14 4. Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of eradication
15 efforts.

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

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

22 F. The Oklahoma Conservation Commission shall submit an annual
23 report to the Governor, Speaker of the Oklahoma House of
24 Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State

1 Senate, and to the chairs of the appropriation committees of the
2 Oklahoma House of Representatives and the Oklahoma State Senate
3 outlining the following:

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

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

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

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.

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9 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated
10 02/17/2025 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.

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