

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 330

By: Murdock

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to the Oklahoma State University Veterinary Medicine Authority; defining terms; authorizing the Authority to conduct study on elk populations in this state; requiring a plan to be established by certain date; specifying parameters of study; requiring a management plan to be created at conclusion of study; allowing the Authority to coordinate with other agencies and experts; authorizing the Authority to make certain expenditures; making an appropriation; stating purpose; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and 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 4024 of Title 2, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. For the purposes of this section:

1. "Authority" means the Oklahoma State University Veterinary Medicine Authority;

2. "Management plan" means a document developed by the Oklahoma State University Veterinary Medicine Authority based on the findings of the study pursuant to this section that outlines the recommended

1 actions for the conservation and management of elk populations in  
2 this state; and

3 3. "Study zone" means the Special Northwest Zone that  
4 encompasses all private lands in Woodward, Dewey, and Ellis  
5 counties, and a portion of Roger Mills County north of State  
6 Highways 33 and 47 to the north county line and west to the state  
7 border and east to the county line.

8 B. No later than November 1, 2025, the Oklahoma State  
9 University Veterinary Medicine Authority in cooperation with the  
10 Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine shall  
11 establish a plan and outline for a comprehensive study of the elk  
12 populations within the Special Northwest Zone. This study shall  
13 assess current population levels, trends, and habitat usage, and  
14 develop science-based management recommendations aimed at ensuring  
15 the long-term sustainability of elk populations and the health of  
16 the ecosystem. The study shall include, but not be limited to, the  
17 following program characteristics:

18 1. The current elk population size, distribution, and density  
19 within the study zone;

20 2. The health and genetic diversity of the elk population,  
21 including disease monitoring and signs of inbreeding, or other  
22 health concerns; and

1           3. The effectiveness and impact of current elk population  
2 management strategies, including hunting, predation control, and  
3 habitat management.

4           Recommendations from the study shall be assessed and compiled in  
5 a management plan for the conservation and management of elk  
6 populations within the study zone and shall be made available on the  
7 Authority's website.

8           C. The Authority may coordinate with other relevant state and  
9 federal agencies to effectuate the provisions of this section. Such  
10 coordination may include requests for temporary suspension and  
11 restrictions on elk hunting and harvesting while the study is being  
12 conducted.

13           D. The Authority shall maintain detailed accounting and  
14 financial records for appropriations received and expenditures made  
15 pursuant to this section. The Authority may engage external experts  
16 and scientists to plan and implement the study pursuant to  
17 subsection B of this section. The engagement of such external  
18 experts shall be implemented in accordance with the policies of the  
19 Authority. The Authority is authorized to carry forward to the next  
20 fiscal year and expend funds related to this section.

21           SECTION 2. There is hereby appropriated to the Oklahoma State  
22 University Veterinary Medicine Authority from any monies not  
23 otherwise appropriated from the General Revenue Fund of the State  
24 Treasury for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the sum of Two

1 Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) or so much thereof as may be  
2 necessary to conduct an elk study for the creation of a management  
3 plan for the conservation and management of elk populations in this  
4 state.

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

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

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