

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 753

By: Deevers

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to invasive woody species; creating the Oklahoma Invasive Woody Species Stewardship for State-Leased Lands Act; providing short title; defining terms; requiring lessees of state-owned land to follow certain guidelines for invasive woody species control; specifying conditions for leases; allowing for lease rates to be amended; authorizing the Oklahoma Conservation Commission to perform inspections; providing for violations; prohibiting additional state resources to be used outside the scope of this act; allowing the Commission to accept contests of findings; providing for promulgation of rules; providing for codification; 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 3-9-100 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 "Oklahoma Invasive Woody Species Stewardship for State-Leased Lands Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-9-101 of Title 27A, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1 A. As used in this act:

2 1. "Invasive woody species" means a non-native tree or shrub
3 species that threatens and causes harm to the environment, water
4 resources, or economy. Invasive woody species include, but are not
5 limited to, *Juniperus virginiana* (Eastern Redcedar), *Juniperus*
6 *scopulorum* (Rocky Mountain juniper), *Juniperus monosperma* (oneseed
7 juniper), and *Tamarix ramosissima* (salt cedar); and

8 2. "Lessee" means any individual, organization, or entity
9 leasing state-owned land.

10 B. Upon origination of a new lease or renewal of a lease on
11 state-owned property after the effective date of this act, a lessee
12 shall be required to:

13 1. Remove no less than eighty-five percent (85%) of invasive
14 woody species on the leased property within two (2) years following
15 the origination date of the lease;

16 2. Submit a management plan to the Oklahoma Conservation
17 Commission outlining the strategy the lessee intends to employ for
18 the removal and ongoing maintenance of invasive woody species on the
19 property within ninety (90) days of the origination date of the
20 lease; and

21 3. Maintain the minimum removal requirement of invasive woody
22 species pursuant to paragraph 1 of this subsection throughout the
23 duration of the lease.

1 C. Lease rates may be reduced to offset the documented costs
2 incurred by the requirements of this act. The reduction shall be
3 agreed upon between the lessee and the state upon approval and
4 review of anticipated costs prior to the origination of the lease.

5 D. The Oklahoma Conservation Commission shall:

6 1. Provide the lessee with a description of the property with a
7 determination of growth by invasive woody species prior to
8 origination of the lease to assist with removal pursuant to
9 paragraph 1 of subsection B of this section; and

10 2. Conduct annual inspections of leased lands to ensure
11 compliance with the management plan submitted by the lessee pursuant
12 to paragraph 2 of subsection B of this section. The lessee shall
13 make the leased property available for inspection upon notice from
14 the Commission.

15 E. 1. Upon a first violation of this section, the Commission
16 shall provide a written notice to the lessee specifying the
17 violations and providing the lessee ninety (90) days after notice to
18 correct the violation.

19 2. If the lessee fails to comply with the contents of the
20 written notice pursuant to paragraph 1 of this subsection, the
21 Commission shall:

22 a. terminate the lease agreement,

23 b. evict the lessee from the property, and
24
25

1 c. require the lessee to pay restitution for any costs
2 incurred by the state due to the lessee's failure to
3 comply with the provisions of this act.

4 3. If any such costs associated with subparagraph c of
5 paragraph 2 of subsection E of this section are not paid within
6 ninety (90) days after being assessed by the state, the Commission
7 shall bring suit in district court to recover any assessed payments.

8 F. The Commission may allow the lessee to contest the findings
9 of the notice upon written notice by the lessee to the Commission
10 within (30) days of receiving the notice of violation.

11 G. No additional state resources shall be allocated for
12 invasive woody species management on leased lands beyond those
13 provided through routine inspections and administrative functions
14 pursuant to this act.

15 H. The Oklahoma Conservation Commission shall promulgate any
16 rules necessary to implement the provisions of this act.

17 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
18 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
19 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
20 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

21
22 60-1-1297 MR 1/19/2025 5:42:34 AM
23
24
25