

An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1601

By: Enns of the House

and

Boggs of the Senate

An Act relating to agriculture; amending 2 O.S. 2011, Sections 12-1 and 12-2, which relate to wildlife services; updating agency name; including feral swine in wildlife damage management; specifying management shall include damage to resources; providing collected parts or byproducts of commercial value shall be sold; specifying type of firearm certain agents authorized to carry; requiring background check and training; and providing an effective date.

SUBJECT: Wildlife services

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2011, Section 12-1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 12-1. A. The State Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry shall enter into a written agreement on behalf of the State of Oklahoma with the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, ~~Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture~~. The agreement shall be for the purpose of cooperating with Wildlife Services, ~~United States Department of Agriculture~~, in conducting wildlife damage management for beavers, coyotes, bobcats, feral swine, and other wildlife or invasive species causing destruction to livestock, poultry, crops, range land, forests, and other resources, including human health and safety.

B. Wildlife damage management of predatory animals and other ~~wildlife~~ species causing damage shall include but not be limited to hunting, trapping, or other practical methods for the control of ~~wildlife~~ damage to resources. Operations shall be directly supervised by the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services in association with the Department. The Department is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with counties, associations, corporations, and individuals for hunting and trapping operations and control of wildlife damage.

C. In cooperation with Wildlife Services, the Department is authorized to purchase ~~wildlife~~ animal damage management supplies, including but not limited to bait, for cooperating governmental agencies, counties, associations, corporations, and individuals for the control of damage caused by predatory animals and other ~~wildlife~~ species. The Department shall make these supplies and baits available to cooperators at approximate cost. The receipts from the sale of supplies and baits shall be credited to the State Department of Agriculture Revolving Fund.

D. Furs, skins, ~~and specimens~~ or other parts or byproducts of commercial value collected by ~~wildlife services~~ Wildlife Services agents shall be sold upon sealed bids after advertisement of the sales, as prescribed by the Department. The proceeds of all sales shall be credited to the State Department of Agriculture Revolving Fund. Any specimen may be presented, free of charge, to any state institution subject to the jurisdiction and control of the State of Oklahoma. No bounty shall be collected from any source for predatory animals and wildlife taken by ~~wildlife services~~ Wildlife Services agents operating pursuant to a cooperative agreement.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2011, Section 12-2, is amended to read as follows:

Section 12-2. It shall be lawful for an authorized agent of the State Board of Agriculture engaged in wildlife damage management, pursuant to the provisions of Section 12-1 of this title, to carry a ~~clip loaded or magazine loaded rifle or shotgun in a vehicle,~~ provided the rifle or shotgun is not chamber loaded firearms in the course of his or her official duties. Authorized agents shall successfully pass a background check by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry and be trained in accordance with United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services guidelines for the use of firearms in wildlife damage management.

The names of agents authorized by the Board to carry a ~~rifle and shotgun~~ firearms shall be furnished to the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

Passed the House of Representatives the 22nd day of February, 2017.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 17th day of April, 2017.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____
day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____
day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____
day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____