

# 2007 Legislative Session

## **New Laws passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor 2007**

Senate Bill 161 by Sen. Justice and Rep. Richardson. Committee Senate substitute allows landowners to kill any animals of the family canidae or felidae found chasing livestock on their property. Bill is effective immediately.

Senate Bill 558 by Sen. Sparks and Rep Richardson. Creates a \$10 youth license for deer archery and deer muzzleloader permits for legal residents under 18 years of age. Allows the Wildlife Department to waive bond requirements for dealers who are selling licenses via the Internet point of sale system. Bill will be effective Nov. 1, 2007.

House Bill 1042 by Rep. Smithson and Sen. Wyrick. Would modify hunter education requirements to specify that hunters 35 years of age and younger would have to either have successfully passed a hunter education course or they could if they purchased an apprentice hunting license and were accompanied by a licensed hunter 21 years of age or older. The measure defines different accompanying parameters for small game and big game hunting. Bill is effective immediately.

House Bill 1393 by Rep. Richardson and Sen. Ford. Would clarify residency requirements and proof of residency for the purposes of purchasing hunting or fishing licenses. Bill would also eliminate the sunset provisions for the Wildlife Diversity Fund. Would allow the Department to issue a duplicate of any annual license for \$1.50, and would allow persons arrested for violations of fish and wildlife laws to, in lieu of posting bond, pay an administrative fine equal to one-half of the current bond schedule, as prepared by the Administrative Office of the Courts. All fines collected would be payable to the Department of Wildlife to be exclusively used for developing, managing, conserving and protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat. Bill is effective immediately.

House Bill 1914 by Rep. Richardson and Sen. Ballenger. Would create the feral swine control act. The bill would authorize the removal of feral swine from private lands, create a process for allowing night hunting of feral swine and establish import/export rules relating to feral hogs. Bill will be effective Nov. 1, 2007.

House Bill 1915 by Rep. Richardson and Sen. Justice. Committee substitute prohibits trespass on lands devoted to farming, ranching or forestry regardless of whether or not it is conspicuously posted, including school lands. Also would increase the fine for trespassing to not less than \$50 and not more than \$500. Bill would be effective Nov. 1, 2007.

House Bill 2064 by Rep. Hyman and Sen. Barrington. Authorizes the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation to issue permits to landowners, lessees, or their designated agents to control nuisance damage by any species of wildlife, including, but not limited to beaver, coyote, deer, bobcat, raccoon and crow. The permit allows night hunting to protect marketable agricultural crops, livestock, or processed feed, seed or other materials used in the production of an agricultural commodity. Permit is valid for up to one year and must be carried while hunting. Permit holders would have to possess a current agricultural tax exempt certificate from the Oklahoma Tax Commission. Bill will be effective Nov. 1, 2007.

### **Dormant bills for the 2007 Legislative Session**

House Bill 1043 by Smithson. Would require commercial hunting areas to compensate the Department of Wildlife for any deer, elk, antelope or bighorn sheep that still remain in the enclosure after a reasonable effort to remove the wildlife is completed. The number and value of the wildlife remaining in the enclosure shall be determined pursuant to rules promulgated by the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission. Bill would be effective Nov. 1, 2007. Went dormant in the House Committee on Natural Resources.

House Bill 1048 by Rep. Ellis and Sen. Wilson. Would exempt legal residents of Oklahoma serving in a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces from land access permit requirements. Bill would be effective immediately upon passage. Passed by the House 100-0; bill failed in the Senate Tourism and Wildlife Committee.

House Bill 1420 by Rep. Duncan. Would exempt nonresidents who own land in Oklahoma, their spouses, parents, grandparents, children of their spouses, grandchildren and their spouses, who fish in private ponds located on land owned by the nonresident from having to purchase a fishing license. Would also exempt nonresidents who own land in Oklahoma and who hunt on land owned by the nonresident from having to purchase a hunting license. Bill would be effective immediately upon passage. Went dormant in the House Rules Committee.

House Bill 1516 by Rep. DeWitt. Would create the feral swine control act. The bill would authorize the removal of feral swine from private lands, create a process for allowing night hunting of feral swine and establish import/export rules relating to feral hogs. Bill would be effective Nov. 1, 2007. Went dormant in the House Committee on Natural Resources.

House Bill 1564 by Rep. Brown. Would allow the Wildlife Conservation Commission to establish an annual special use permit that would be required for persons to operate all terrain vehicles off-road in wildlife management areas. The Commission may establish a

three-day special use permit that would allow persons to use all terrain vehicles off road in wildlife management areas for up to three consecutive days. The fees from these resident and nonresident permits shall be expended exclusively for managing, preserving and protecting wildlife in wildlife management areas. Bill would be effective Nov. 1, 2007. Bill failed in the House subcommittee on Environment and Wildlife and does not go to the full House Committee on Natural Resources.

House Bill 1668 by Rep. Dorman and Sen. Rabon. Committee substitute would direct the Oklahoma Tax Commission to distribute a portion of state income taxes paid to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation in the amount equal to the sum of license fees forgone by exemptions to those licenses authorized by the Legislature. Bill would be effective Jan. 1, 2008. Title stricken and passed by the House 91-2. Bill went dormant in the Senate Finance Committee.

House Bill 1728 by Rep. McCarter and Sen. Barrington. Modifying the hunting license exemption for persons engaged in training dogs to specify a license is not required provided the persons training or working dogs does not take or attempt to take in any manner any game. Bill would be effective immediately upon passage. Passed by the House 101-0. Bill amended and passed by the Senate Tourism and Wildlife Committee. Committee amendment would prohibit field training of dogs during deer gun and deer muzzleloader seasons. Bill goes dormant in the Senate.

House Bill 1970 by Reps. Armes and Dorman. Assigned to the House Committee on Natural Resources. Provides that no person may hunt wildlife, including waterfowl, from or with the aid of an airboat on any body of water designated by the Director of Wildlife Conservation. Bill would be effective immediately upon passage. Went dormant in the House Committee on Natural Resources.

House Bill 2108 by Rep. Cargill and Sen. Ford. Creates the Oklahoma Forever Land Trust Advisory Council and specifies goals, objectives and operation of the Council. Bill would be effective immediately upon passage. Title stricken and passed by the House 99-1. Bill went dormant in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Senate Bill 70 by Sen. Ballenger and Rep. Hyman. Creates the feral swine control act. Senate floor substitute would authorize the removal of feral swine from private lands, create a process for allowing night hunting of feral swine and hunting of feral swine during deer firearms seasons, and establish import/export rules relating to feral hogs. Bill would be effective Nov. 1, 2007. Passed from the Senate Agriculture and Rural Development Committee. Passes the Senate 48-0. Not heard in the full House Natural Resources Committee.

Senate Bill 95 By Sen. Corn and Rep. Richardson. Would prohibit hunting on private lands without landowner permission, whether they are posted or not. Bill also provides for revocation of a person's hunting or fishing license for up to a year if they violate these provisions. Bill would be effective immediately upon passage. Title stricken and passed the Senate 40-7. Amended and passed by the House Judiciary and Public Safety Committee. Passed the House 73-12. Senate concurs with House amendments and pass bill 37-9. Bill held on a notice to reconsider. Governor vetoed.

Senate Bill 174 by Sen. Barrington. Would exempt volunteer fire fighters from having to purchase an annual hunting or fishing license. Bill went dormant in the Senate Tourism and Wildlife Committee.

Senate Bill 434 by Sen. Rabon and Rep. Dorman. House Committee substitute clarifies the authority of game wardens. Bill would be effective Nov. 1, 2007. Passed the Senate 42-0. Passed by the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on the Environment and Wildlife and went dormant the full House Natural Resources Committee.

Senate Bill 505 by Sen. Easley. Authorizes the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation to issue permits to landowners, lessees, or their designated agents to control nuisance damage by any species of wildlife, including, but not limited to beaver, coyote, deer, bobcat, raccoon, crow and feral swine. Permit allow night hunting and would be valid for one year. Bill would be effective immediately upon passage. Bill went dormant in the Senate Tourism and Wildlife Committee.

Senate Bill 700 by Sen. Ballenger and Rep. Steele. Committee substitute would require any landowner building a high fence on their property to perform a reasonable effort remove any deer, elk, antelope or big horn sheep before the area is enclosed. Passed by the Senate 47-0. Bill went dormant in the House Natural Resources Committee.

Senate Bill 721 by Sen. Barrington and Rep. McCarter. Authorizes the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation to issue permits to landowners, lessees, or their designated agents to control nuisance damage by any species of wildlife, including, but not limited to beaver, coyote, deer, bobcat, raccoon, crow and feral swine. The permit would allow night hunting to protect marketable agricultural crops, livestock, or processed feed, seed or other materials used in the production of an agricultural commodity. Permit would be valid for one year and must be carried while hunting. Permit holders would have to possess a current agricultural tax exempt certificate from the Oklahoma Tax Commission. Bill would be effective Nov. 1, 2007. One floor amendment adopted and bill passed the Senate 45-0. Passed from the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on the Environment and Wildlife and went dormant in the full house Natural Resources Committee.