

1 Section 6-310. A. The Commissioner of the State Board of
2 Agriculture may commission, subject to the approval of the Board,
3 agriculture law enforcement agents.

4 B. Agriculture law enforcement agents, when commissioned,
5 shall:

6 1. Have all the powers of peace officers except the serving or
7 execution of civil process other than the execution of civil process
8 related to the Oklahoma Agricultural Code;

9 2. Have in all parts of the state the same powers with respect
10 to criminal matters and enforcement of the laws relating thereto as
11 sheriffs, highway patrol, and police officers in their respective
12 jurisdictions;

13 3. Enforce the civil, criminal, and administrative provisions
14 relating to livestock theft, animal health and importation statutes
15 and theft of farming equipment and farm implements, as well as any
16 other law contained in the Oklahoma Agricultural Code;

17 4. Possess all immunities and matters of defense now available
18 or hereafter made available to sheriffs, highway patrol and police
19 officers in any suit brought against them in consequence of acts
20 done in the course of their employment; and

21 5. Comply with the provisions of Section 3311 of Title 70 of
22 the Oklahoma Statutes.

23 C. Agriculture law enforcement agents specifically:
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1 1. Are vested with the power and authority of sheriffs in
2 making arrests for violations of the Oklahoma Agricultural Code and
3 in the enforcement of nonagriculture-related crimes in cooperation
4 with other law enforcement officers and agencies as authorized by
5 the Board and approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma;

6 2. May take into possession any farming equipment or farm
7 implement and any and all livestock, or any part thereof, killed,
8 taken, shipped or had in possession contrary to the law. Such
9 livestock or parts thereof may be disposed of as determined by the
10 Commissioner or any court of competent jurisdiction;

11 3. May make a complaint and cause proceedings to be commenced
12 against any person for violation of any of the laws relating to the
13 Oklahoma Agricultural Code or relating to theft of livestock and of
14 farming equipment or farm implements, with the sanction of the
15 prosecuting or district attorney of the county in which the
16 proceedings are brought, and shall not be required to give security
17 for costs;

18 4. In connection with the enforcement of the civil, criminal,
19 and administrative provisions, shall have the express authority to
20 stop the transportation or movement of any animal or farming
21 equipment or farm implement within this state and shall have the
22 right to enter upon all premises, posted, or otherwise, when
23 necessary for enforcement of the laws of this state;

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1 5. Shall be under the control and direction of the
2 Commissioner. The Commissioner may, at any time, remove any powers
3 or authority of arrest conferred by the Commissioner; and

4 6. Shall have the right to carry firearms as authorized by the
5 Commissioner.

6 D. All agriculture law enforcement agents commissioned as
7 provided in subsection A of this section shall be provided a salary
8 as follows:

9 1. For the state fiscal years beginning on or after July 1,
10 2023, and ending on or prior to June 30, 2025, an amount no less
11 than ninety percent (90%) of the average salary paid to the rank of
12 Trooper for the Oklahoma Highway Patrol Division of the Department
13 of Public Safety during the state fiscal year ending June 30, 2022;
14 and

15 2. Starting with the state fiscal year beginning on July 1,
16 2025, and in each state fiscal year that begins in an odd-numbered
17 calendar year thereafter, such salary shall be adjusted to be no
18 less than ninety percent (90%) of the average salary paid to the
19 rank of Trooper for the Oklahoma Highway Patrol Division of the
20 Department of Public Safety during the most recent state fiscal year
21 ending in an even-numbered calendar year; provided that no
22 adjustment shall be made that would result in the reduction of an
23 applicable salary amount.

24 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

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

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6 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated
7 03/06/2023 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.

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