

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 8, 2021

3 SENATE BILL NO. 560

By: Dahm and Bergstrom

4
5
6
7 An Act relating to self-defense; amending 21 O.S.
8 2011, Section 1289.25, as last amended by Section 1,
9 Chapter 218, O.S.L. 2018 (21 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section
10 1289.25), which relates to physical or deadly force
11 against intruder; prohibiting certain prosecution for
12 offense; and providing an effective date.

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

14 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 21 O.S. 2011, Section 1289.25, as
15 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 218, O.S.L. 2018 (21 O.S. Supp.
16 2020, Section 1289.25), is amended to read as follows:

17 Section 1289.25.

18 PHYSICAL OR DEADLY FORCE AGAINST INTRUDER

19 A. The Legislature hereby recognizes that the citizens of the
20 State of Oklahoma have a right to expect absolute safety within
21 their own homes, places of business or places of worship and have
22 the right to establish policies regarding the possession of weapons
23 on property pursuant to the provisions of Section 1290.22 of this
24 title.

1 B. A person, regardless of official capacity or lack of
2 official capacity, within a place of worship or a person, an owner,
3 manager or employee of a business is presumed to have held a
4 reasonable fear of imminent peril of death or great bodily harm to
5 himself or herself or another when using defensive force that is
6 intended or likely to cause death or great bodily harm to another
7 if:

8 1. a. The person against whom the defensive force was used
9 was in the process of unlawfully and forcefully
10 entering, or had unlawfully and forcibly entered, a
11 dwelling, residence, occupied vehicle, place of
12 business or place of worship, or if that person had
13 removed or was attempting to remove another against
14 the will of that person from the dwelling, residence,
15 occupied vehicle, place of business or place of
16 worship.

17 b. The person who uses defensive force knew or had reason
18 to believe that an unlawful and forcible entry or
19 unlawful and forcible act was occurring or had
20 occurred; or

21 2. The person who uses defensive force knew or had a reasonable
22 belief that the person against whom the defensive force was used
23 entered or was attempting to enter into a dwelling, residence,
24 occupied vehicle, place of business or place of worship for the

1 purpose of committing a forcible felony, as defined in Section 733
2 of this title, and that the defensive force was necessary to prevent
3 the commission of the forcible felony.

4 C. The presumption set forth in subsection B of this section
5 does not apply if:

6 1. The person against whom the defensive force is used has the
7 right to be in or is a lawful resident of the dwelling, residence,
8 or vehicle, such as an owner, lessee, or titleholder, and there is
9 not a protective order from domestic violence in effect or a written
10 pretrial supervision order of no contact against that person;

11 2. The person or persons sought to be removed are children or
12 grandchildren, or are otherwise in the lawful custody or under the
13 lawful guardianship of, the person against whom the defensive force
14 is used; or

15 3. The person who uses defensive force is engaged in an
16 unlawful activity or is using the dwelling, residence, occupied
17 vehicle, place of business or place of worship to further an
18 unlawful activity.

19 D. A person who is not engaged in an unlawful activity and who
20 is attacked in any other place where he or she has a right to be has
21 no duty to retreat and has the right to stand his or her ground and
22 meet force with force, including deadly force, if he or she
23 reasonably believes it is necessary to do so to prevent death or

24

1 great bodily harm to himself or herself or another or to prevent the
2 commission of a forcible felony.

3 E. A person who unlawfully and by force enters or attempts to
4 enter the dwelling, residence, occupied vehicle of another person,
5 place of business or place of worship is presumed to be doing so
6 with the intent to commit an unlawful act involving force or
7 violence.

8 F. A person, who lawfully is in an occupied vehicle that is
9 approached and surrounded by a person or persons engaged in unlawful
10 activity who has blocked the road, shall not be subject to criminal
11 or civil prosecution for a reasonable effort to escape from the
12 unlawful activity with or without damage to the vehicle.

13 G. A person who uses defensive force, as permitted pursuant to
14 the provisions of subsections A, B, D ~~and~~, E and F of this section,
15 is justified in using such defensive force and is immune from
16 criminal prosecution and civil action for the use of such defensive
17 force. As used in this subsection, the term "criminal prosecution"
18 includes charging or prosecuting the defendant.

19 ~~G.~~ H. A law enforcement agency may use standard procedures for
20 investigating the use of defensive force, but the law enforcement
21 agency may not arrest the person for using defensive force unless it
22 determines that there is probable cause that the defensive force
23 that was used was unlawful.

24

1 ~~H.~~ I. The court shall award reasonable attorney fees, court
2 costs, compensation for loss of income, and all expenses incurred by
3 the defendant in defense of any civil action brought by a plaintiff
4 if the court finds that the defendant is immune from prosecution as
5 provided in subsection ~~F~~ G of this section.

6 ~~I.~~ J. The provisions of this section and the provisions of the
7 Oklahoma Self-Defense Act shall not be construed to require any
8 person using a weapon pursuant to the provisions of this section to
9 be licensed in any manner.

10 ~~J.~~ K. A person pointing a weapon at a perpetrator in self-
11 defense or in order to thwart, stop or deter a forcible felony or
12 attempted forcible felony shall not be deemed guilty of committing a
13 criminal act.

14 ~~K.~~ L. As used in this section:

15 1. "Defensive force" includes, but shall not be limited to,
16 pointing a weapon at a perpetrator in self-defense or in order to
17 thwart, stop or deter a forcible felony or attempted forcible
18 felony;

19 2. "Dwelling" means a building or conveyance of any kind,
20 including any attached porch, whether the building or conveyance is
21 temporary or permanent, mobile or immobile, which has a roof over
22 it, including a tent, and is designed to be occupied by people;

23 3. "Place of worship" means:
24

1 a. any permanent building, structure, facility or office
2 space owned, leased, rented or borrowed, on a full-
3 time basis, when used for worship services, activities
4 and business of the congregation, which may include,
5 but not be limited to, churches, temples, synagogues
6 and mosques, and

7 b. any permanent building, structure, facility or office
8 space owned, leased, rented or borrowed for use on a
9 temporary basis, when used for worship services,
10 activities and business of the congregation including,
11 but not limited to, churches, temples, synagogues and
12 mosques;

13 4. "Residence" means a dwelling in which a person resides
14 either temporarily or permanently or is visiting as an invited
15 guest; and

16 5. "Vehicle" means a conveyance of any kind, whether or not
17 motorized, which is designed to transport people or property.

18 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

19 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
20 February 8, 2021 - DO PASS