

ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1587

By: Hutchison of the House
and
Shurden of the Senate

An Act relating to game and fish; amending 29 O.S.
1991, Section 3-103, as amended by Section 1,
Chapter 318, O.S.L. 1994 (29 O.S. Supp. 1994,
Section 3-103), which relates to the Wildlife
Conservation Commission; clarifying statutory
language; providing an effective date; and
declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 1991, Section 3-103, as
amended by Section 1, Chapter 318, O.S.L. 1994 (29 O.S. Supp. 1994,
Section 3-103), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-103. A. The Wildlife Conservation Commission shall
constitute an advisory, administrative and policymaking board with
whom the Director shall consult regarding the administration of the
affairs of the Department. The Commission is authorized and
empowered to require from the Director complete reports and
information relative to the affairs of the Department at such time
and in such manner as the Commission may deem advisable. The

Commission shall meet on the first Monday in each month in regular session and in ~~such~~ special sessions as may be called by the Chairman or a majority of the Commission. The Commission may hold any regular or special session at any location within this state. Should a location be chosen other than Commission headquarters in Oklahoma City for a regular or special meeting, notice shall be posted at Commission headquarters in Oklahoma City as well as being advertised in the local newspaper of the city in which the meeting is to be held, at least one time during each of the two (2) weeks prior to such meeting. The advertisements shall include time, date and address of location of ~~said~~ the meeting.

B. In addition to the other powers and duties prescribed by law, the Commission shall:

1. Institute an affirmative action plan setting goal of hiring women and minorities throughout the agency; ~~and~~

2. Elect a chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary, who shall perform the duties required of them by the rules ~~and regulations~~ of the Commission and the statutes and Constitution of the State of Oklahoma. Said chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary shall receive no extra compensation therefor; ~~and~~

3. Appoint a Director, and determine the qualifications of ~~said~~ the Director and all assistants and employees. A Commissioner shall not be eligible for employment in any position within the Department; ~~and~~

4. Prescribe rules, ~~regulations,~~ and policies for the transaction of its business and the control of the Department; ~~and~~

5. Develop and implement a plan to provide step raises for Commission Employees so that discrepancies within pay levels within a pay grade will be eliminated; ~~and~~

6. Acquire by purchase, lease, gift, or devise, waters, real property, and personal property incident to the exercise of its functions and to maintain, operate, and dispose of the same; ~~and~~

7. Acquire real property by condemnation only when the Attorney General or other counsel deems it an appropriate means of clearing title from willing or unavailable sellers; ~~and~~

8. Supervise the establishment, extension, improvement, and operation of the wildlife refuges, propagation areas or stations, public hunting areas, public fishing areas, game management areas, and fish hatcheries; ~~and~~

9. Prescribe the manner of cooperation with the Tourism and Recreation Department, colleges and universities within the state, other state agencies, any agency of the federal government, and any city, town, school district, or any other agency or organization in study of conservation and propagation of wildlife and in the establishment, maintenance, and operation of visual educational facilities, recreational facilities, and hunting and fishing facilities, in the study and propagation of wildlife; ~~and~~

10. Supervise the letting of all contracts and purchases for the Department, with all purchases of personal property to be made through the Purchasing Division of the Department of Central Services; ~~and~~

11. Authorize all claims or expenditures prior to ~~the~~ incurring ~~of~~ payment ~~therefor~~ except as otherwise provided in this Code; ~~and~~

12. Prescribe rules ~~and regulations~~ for the sale of all regular or special licenses; ~~and~~

13. Publicize and encourage the conservation and appreciation of wildlife and all other natural resources; ~~and~~

14. Regulate the seasons and harvest of wildlife; ~~and~~

15. Annually report to the Governor and the Legislature on the complete operation, activities, and plans of the Department, together with such recommendations for future activities as the Commission may deem to be in the best interest of the state; and

16. Provide the Governor and the Legislature with an annual inventory of all property and equipment.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1995.

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

Passed the House of Representatives the 28th day of February, 1995.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 1995.

President of the Senate