

ENROLLED SENATE  
BILL NO. 477

By: Shurden of the Senate

and

Smith (Dale) of the House

An Act relating to game and fish; amending 29 O.S. 1991, Section 3-103, as last amended by Section 4, Chapter 7, O.S.L. 1996 (29 O.S. Supp. 2000, Section 3-103), which relates to powers and duties of the Wildlife Conservation Commission; expanding powers and duties of the Commission; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 1991, Section 3-103, as last amended by Section 4, Chapter 7, O.S.L. 1996 (29 O.S. Supp. 2000, 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 for the protection, restoration, perpetuation, conservation, supervision, maintenance, enhancement, and management of wildlife in this state as provided in the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Code except for the importation of ~~such~~ exotic livestock into the State of Oklahoma pursuant to the provisions of this section. The importation of exotic livestock into this state shall be regulated by the State Board of Agriculture pursuant to the Agricultural Code in the same manner and with the same authority over livestock as is delegated to the Board by this title. The Director shall consult with the Commission regarding the administration of the affairs of the Department of Wildlife Conservation. 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 special sessions as may be called by the ~~Chairman~~ Chair 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 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;

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

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

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

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;

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;

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;

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;

9. Prescribe the manner of cooperation with the Oklahoma 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;

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;

11. Authorize all claims or expenditures prior to incurring payment except as otherwise provided in this Code;

12. Prescribe rules on the use of vehicles owned by the Department by the Director, department heads and other essential employees as the Commission deems necessary in order to perform their duties;

13. Prescribe rules for the sale of all regular or special licenses;

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

15. Regulate the seasons and harvest of wildlife;

16. Promulgate rules to sell fishing and hunting licenses via the Internet;

17. 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

~~17.~~ 18. Provide the Governor and the Legislature with an annual inventory of all property and equipment.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2001.

Passed the Senate the 5th day of March, 2001.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 5th day of April, 2001.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives

