

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR ENGROSSED
SENATE BILL NO. 587

By: Jech of the Senate

and

Newton of the House

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to the Wildlife Conservation Commission; amending 29 O.S. 2011, Section 3-103, as amended by Section 116, Chapter 304, O.S.L. 2012 (29 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 3-103), which relates to the functions, powers and duties of the Commission; modifying Commission meeting requirements; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 2011, Section 3-103, as amended by Section 116, Chapter 304, O.S.L. 2012 (29 O.S. Supp. 2016, 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.

1 B. The Director shall consult with the Commission regarding the
2 administration of the affairs of the Department of Wildlife
3 Conservation. The Commission is authorized and empowered to require
4 from the Director complete reports and information relative to the
5 affairs of the Department at the time and in the manner the
6 Commission may deem advisable.

7 C. The Commission shall meet ~~on the first Monday in each month~~
8 at least nine (9) times per calendar year in regular session, with
9 no two regular session meetings held within the same month and not
10 more than two (2) consecutive months between meetings, and in
11 special sessions as may be called by the Chair or a majority of the
12 Commission. The Commission may hold any regular or special session
13 at any location within this state. Should a location be chosen
14 other than Commission headquarters in Oklahoma City for a regular or
15 special meeting, notice shall be posted at Commission headquarters
16 in Oklahoma City and advertised in the local newspaper of the city
17 in which the meeting is to be held, at least one time during each of
18 the two (2) weeks prior to the meeting. The advertisements shall
19 include time, date, and address of location of the meeting.

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

22 1. Institute an affirmative action plan for hiring women and
23 minorities throughout the agency;
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1 2. Elect a chair, vice-chair~~7~~ and secretary, who shall perform
2 the duties required of them by statutes, rules of the Commission~~7~~
3 and the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma. The chair, vice-
4 chair~~7~~ and secretary shall receive no extra compensation;

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

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

10 5. Develop and implement a plan to provide step raises for
11 Commission employees so that discrepancies of pay levels within a
12 pay grade are eliminated;

13 6. Acquire by purchase, lease, gift, or devise, waters, real
14 property~~7~~ and personal property incident to the exercise of its
15 functions and to maintain, operate~~7~~ and dispose of the same;

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

19 8. Supervise the establishment, extension, improvement~~7~~ and
20 operation of the wildlife refuges, propagation areas or stations,
21 public hunting areas, public fishing areas, game management areas,
22 and fish hatcheries;

23 9. Prescribe the manner of cooperation with the Oklahoma
24 Tourism and Recreation Department, colleges and universities within

1 the state, other state agencies, any agency of the federal
2 government, and any city, town, school district, or any other agency
3 or organization in study of conservation and propagation of wildlife
4 and in the establishment, maintenance, and operation of visual
5 educational facilities, recreational facilities, and hunting and
6 fishing facilities, in the study and propagation of wildlife;

7 10. Supervise the letting of all contracts and purchases for
8 the Department, with all purchases of personal property to be made
9 through the Office of Management and Enterprise Services;

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

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

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

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

19 15. Regulate the seasons and harvest of wildlife;

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

22 17. Annually report to the Governor and the Legislature on the
23 complete operation, activities, and plans of the Department,

1 together with such recommendations for future activities as the
2 Commission may deem to be in the best interest of the state; and

3 18. Provide the Governor and the Legislature with an annual
4 inventory of all property and equipment.

5 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

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