

1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
2 BILL NO. 587

By: Jech of the Senate

3 and

4 Newton of the House

5  
6 An Act relating to the Wildlife Conservation  
7 Commission; amending 29 O.S. 2011, Section 3-103, as  
8 amended by Section 116, Chapter 304, O.S.L. 2012 (29  
9 O.S. Supp. 2016, Section 3-103), which relates to the  
10 functions, powers and duties of the Commission;  
11 modifying Commission meeting requirements; and  
12 providing an effective date.

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

14 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 2011, Section 3-103, as  
15 amended by Section 116, Chapter 304, O.S.L. 2012 (29 O.S. Supp.  
16 2016, Section 3-103), is amended to read as follows:

17 Section 3-103. A. The Wildlife Conservation Commission shall  
18 constitute an advisory, administrative and policymaking board for  
19 the protection, restoration, perpetuation, conservation,  
20 supervision, maintenance, enhancement, and management of wildlife in  
21 this state as provided in the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Code.

22 B. The Director shall consult with the Commission regarding the  
23 administration of the affairs of the Department of Wildlife  
24 Conservation. The Commission is authorized and empowered to require  
from the Director complete reports and information relative to the

1 affairs of the Department at the time and in the manner the  
2 Commission may deem advisable.

3 C. The Commission shall meet ~~on the first Monday in each month~~  
4 at least nine (9) times per calendar year in regular session, with  
5 no two regular session meetings held within the same month, and in  
6 special sessions as may be called by the Chair or a majority of the  
7 Commission. The Commission may hold any regular or special session  
8 at any location within this state. Should a location be chosen  
9 other than Commission headquarters in Oklahoma City for a regular or  
10 special meeting, notice shall be posted at Commission headquarters  
11 in Oklahoma City and advertised in the local newspaper of the city  
12 in which the meeting is to be held, at least one time during each of  
13 the two (2) weeks prior to the meeting. The advertisements shall  
14 include time, date, and address of location of the meeting.

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

17 1. Institute an affirmative action plan for hiring women and  
18 minorities throughout the agency;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19       9. Prescribe the manner of cooperation with the Oklahoma  
20 Tourism and Recreation Department, colleges and universities within  
21 the state, other state agencies, any agency of the federal  
22 government, and any city, town, school district, or any other agency  
23 or organization in study of conservation and propagation of wildlife  
24 and in the establishment, maintenance, and operation of visual

1 educational facilities, recreational facilities, and hunting and  
2 fishing facilities, in the study and propagation of wildlife;

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

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

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

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

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

15 15. Regulate the seasons and harvest of wildlife;

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

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

22 18. Provide the Governor and the Legislature with an annual  
23 inventory of all property and equipment.  
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SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

Passed the Senate the 6th day of March, 2017.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
2017.

Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives