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April 4, 2017

ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1501

By: Fetgatter of the House

and

Thompson of the Senate

An Act relating to game and fish; 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 Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission; decreasing the frequency of required Commission regular session meetings; 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.

B. The Director shall consult with the Commission regarding the administration of the affairs of the Department of Wildlife

1 Conservation. The Commission is authorized and empowered to require
2 from the Director complete reports and information relative to the
3 affairs of the Department at the time and in the manner the
4 Commission may deem advisable.

5 C. The Commission shall meet ~~on the first Monday in each month~~
6 in regular session at least nine times per year not to exceed one
7 meeting per month with not more than two consecutive calendar months
8 between meetings and in special sessions as may be called by the
9 Chair or a majority of the Commission. The Commission may hold any
10 regular or special session at any location within this state.
11 Should a location be chosen other than Commission headquarters in
12 Oklahoma City for a regular or special meeting, notice shall be
13 posted at Commission headquarters in Oklahoma City and advertised in
14 the local newspaper of the city in which the meeting is to be held,
15 at least one time during each of the two (2) weeks prior to the
16 meeting. The advertisements shall include time, date, and address
17 of location of the meeting.

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

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

22 2. Elect a chair, vice-chair, and secretary, who shall perform
23 the duties required of them by statutes, rules of the Commission,
24

1 and the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma. The chair, vice-
2 chair, and secretary shall receive no extra compensation;

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 9. Prescribe the manner of cooperation with the Oklahoma
22 Tourism and Recreation Department, colleges and universities within
23 the state, other state agencies, any agency of the federal
24 government, and any city, town, school district, or any other agency

1 or organization in study of conservation and propagation of wildlife
2 and in the establishment, maintenance, and operation of visual
3 educational facilities, recreational facilities, and hunting and
4 fishing facilities, in the study and propagation of wildlife;

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

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

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

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

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

17 15. Regulate the seasons and harvest of wildlife;

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

20 17. Annually report to the Governor and the Legislature on the
21 complete operation, activities, and plans of the Department,
22 together with such recommendations for future activities as the
23 Commission may deem to be in the best interest of the state; and
24

1 18. Provide the Governor and the Legislature with an annual
2 inventory of all property and equipment.

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

4 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND WILDLIFE
5 April 4, 2017 - DO PASS
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