

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

February 25, 2019

2 **AS AMENDED**

3 SENATE BILL NO. 703

By: Murdock

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5  
6 **[ game and fish - Wildlife Conservation Commission -  
7 acquisition of certain property - effective date ]**  
8

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

10 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 2011, Section 3-103, as  
11 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 24, O.S.L. 2017 (29 O.S. Supp.  
12 2018, Section 3-103), is amended to read as follows:

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

18 B. The Director shall consult with the Commission regarding the  
19 administration of the affairs of the Department of Wildlife  
20 Conservation. The Commission is authorized and empowered to require  
21 from the Director complete reports and information relative to the  
22 affairs of the Department at the time and in the manner the  
23 Commission may deem advisable.  
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1 C. The Commission shall meet in regular session at least nine  
2 times per year not to exceed one meeting per month with not more  
3 than two consecutive calendar months between meetings and in special  
4 sessions as may be called by the Chair or a majority of the  
5 Commission. The Commission may hold any regular or special session  
6 at any location within this state. Should a location be chosen  
7 other than Commission headquarters in Oklahoma City for a regular or  
8 special meeting, notice shall be posted at Commission headquarters  
9 in Oklahoma City and advertised in the local newspaper of the city  
10 in which the meeting is to be held, at least one time during each of  
11 the two (2) weeks prior to the meeting. The advertisements shall  
12 include time, date, and address of location of the meeting.

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 6. Acquire by purchase, lease, gift, or devise, waters, real  
7 property, and personal property contiguous to the boundaries of any  
8 properties presently owned by the Commission, incident to the  
9 exercise of its functions and to maintain, operate, and dispose of  
10 the same;

11 7. Acquire real property contiguous to the boundaries of any  
12 properties presently owned by the Commission by condemnation only  
13 when the Attorney General or other counsel deems it an appropriate  
14 means of clearing title from willing or unavailable sellers;

15 8. The Commission shall not purchase or otherwise acquire an  
16 amount of land, measured in acres, that is greater than the amount  
17 of land the Commission has sold each year;

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

22 ~~9.~~ 10. Prescribe the manner of cooperation with the Oklahoma  
23 Tourism and Recreation Department, colleges and universities within  
24 the state, other state agencies, any agency of the federal

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

6 ~~10.~~ 11. Supervise the letting of all contracts and purchases  
7 for the Department, with all purchases of personal property to be  
8 made through the Office of Management and Enterprise Services;

9 ~~11.~~ 12. Authorize all claims or expenditures prior to incurring  
10 payment except as otherwise provided in this Code;

11 ~~12.~~ 13. Prescribe rules on the use of Department-owned vehicles  
12 by the Director, department heads and other essential employees as  
13 the Commission deems necessary in order to perform their duties;

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

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

18 ~~15.~~ 16. Regulate the seasons and harvest of wildlife;

19 ~~16.~~ 17. Promulgate rules to sell fishing and hunting licenses  
20 via the Internet;

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

1        ~~18.~~ 19.    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, 2019.

4 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND WILDLIFE  
5 February 25, 2019 - DO PASS AS AMENDED  
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