

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 776

By: Murdock

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to game and fish; amending 29 O.S. 2011, Section 3-103, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 24, O.S.L. 2017 (29 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 3-103), which relates to the Wildlife Conservation Commission; modifying authority relating to the acquisition of land; requiring land to be publicly offered for sale at fair market value; 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 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 24, O.S.L. 2017 (29 O.S. Supp. 2020, 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 in regular session at least nine
6 times per year not to exceed one meeting per month with not more
7 than two consecutive calendar months between meetings and in special
8 sessions as may be called by the Chair or a majority of the
9 Commission. The Commission may hold any regular or special session
10 at any location within this state. Should a location be chosen
11 other than Commission headquarters in Oklahoma City for a regular or
12 special meeting, notice shall be posted at Commission headquarters
13 in Oklahoma City and advertised in the local newspaper of the city
14 in which the meeting is to be held, at least one time during each of
15 the two (2) weeks prior to the meeting. The advertisements shall
16 include time, date, and address of location of the meeting.

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

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

21 2. Elect a chair, vice-chair, and secretary, who shall perform
22 the duties required of them by statutes, rules of the Commission,
23 and the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma. The chair, vice-
24 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, and
12 acquire real property by purchase when such real property is
13 surrounded one hundred percent (100%) by existing real property
14 operated, controlled or owned by the Commission;

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

18 8. Acquire land at a price that is no more than the appraised
19 value only after the land has been publicly offered for sale for a
20 minimum of six (6) months at a fair market value;

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

1 ~~9.~~ 10. Prescribe the manner of cooperation with the Oklahoma
2 Tourism and Recreation Department, colleges and universities within
3 the state, other state agencies, any agency of the federal
4 government, and any city, town, school district, or any other agency
5 or organization in study of conservation and propagation of wildlife
6 and in the establishment, maintenance, and operation of visual
7 educational facilities, recreational facilities, and hunting and
8 fishing facilities, in the study and propagation of wildlife;

9 ~~10.~~ 11. Supervise the letting of all contracts and purchases
10 for the Department, with all purchases of personal property to be
11 made through the Office of Management and Enterprise Services;

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

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

17 ~~13.~~ 14. Prescribe rules for the sale of all regular or special
18 licenses;

19 ~~14.~~ 15. Publicize and encourage the conservation and
20 appreciation of wildlife and all other natural resources;

21 ~~15.~~ 16. Regulate the seasons and harvest of wildlife;

22 ~~16.~~ 17. Promulgate rules to sell fishing and hunting licenses
23 via the Internet;

1 ~~17.~~ 18. Annually report to the Governor and the Legislature on
2 the complete operation, activities, and plans of the Department,
3 together with such recommendations for future activities as the
4 Commission may deem to be in the best interest of the state; and

5 ~~18.~~ 19. Provide the Governor and the Legislature with an annual
6 inventory of all property and equipment.

7 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

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