
SENATE BILL 5661

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senators Honeyford, Van De Wege, Wagoner, and L. Wilson

Prefiled 01/05/22. Read first time 01/10/22. Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to the appointment of fish and wildlife
2 commission members; amending RCW 77.04.030; and creating a new
3 section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that it is important
6 for the proper management of the fish and wildlife of this state to
7 have a fully qualified and confirmed fish and wildlife commission who
8 represent the broad interests of the state of Washington. There are
9 currently vacancies on the board and it has become clear that a
10 contingency process for appointment is necessary to ensure that the
11 commission is fully functional. The legislature finds that the
12 leadership of the two largest caucuses are qualified and capable of
13 appointing appropriate members to the commission when there has been
14 a significant delay.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 77.04.030 and 2001 c 155 s 1 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (1) The fish and wildlife commission consists of nine registered
18 voters of the state. In January of each odd-numbered year, the
19 governor shall appoint with the advice and consent of the senate
20 three registered voters to the commission to serve for terms of six

1 years from that January or until their successors are appointed and
2 qualified. No commissioner may serve without reappointment or
3 replacement. The reappointment or replacement must occur prior to the
4 end of the next legislative session.

5 (2) If a vacancy occurs on the commission prior to the expiration
6 of a term, the governor shall appoint a registered voter within
7 ((sixty)) 60 days to complete the term. If the governor fails to fill
8 the vacancy within 60 days, the chair of each of the two largest
9 caucuses of the senate and the two largest caucuses of the house of
10 representatives must appoint a registered voter within 60 days to
11 complete the term. Three members shall be residents of that portion
12 of the state lying east of the summit of the Cascade mountains, and
13 three shall be residents of that portion of the state lying west of
14 the summit of the Cascade mountains. Three additional members shall
15 be appointed at large. No two members may be residents of the same
16 county. The legal office of the commission is at the administrative
17 office of the department in Olympia.

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