
HOUSE BILL 1930

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Dent and Orcutt

Read first time 02/10/25. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to reforming the fish and wildlife commission;
2 amending RCW 77.04.030 and 77.04.040; adding a new section to chapter
3 77.04 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 77.12 RCW.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 77.04.030 and 2001 c 155 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The fish and wildlife commission consists of nine registered
8 voters of the state(~~(. In January of each odd-numbered year, the~~
9 ~~governor shall appoint with the advice and consent of the senate~~
10 ~~three registered voters to the commission to serve for terms of six~~
11 ~~years from that January or until their successors are appointed and~~
12 ~~qualified. If a vacancy occurs on the commission prior to the~~
13 ~~expiration of a term, the governor shall appoint a registered voter~~
14 ~~within sixty days to complete the term. Three members shall be~~
15 ~~residents of that portion of the state lying east of the summit of~~
16 ~~the Cascade mountains, and three shall be residents of that portion~~
17 ~~of the state lying west of the summit of the Cascade mountains. Three~~
18 ~~additional members shall be appointed at large. No two members may be~~
19 ~~residents of the same county.)), to be appointed to six-year terms as
20 follows:~~

1 (a) Six members, one from each of the six regions of the
2 department, as those regions existed on January 1, 2025, shall be
3 appointed by the counties within each region as follows:

4 (i) Each county legislative authority within each region must
5 nominate candidates from within their county for appointment to the
6 commission. The county legislative authority may solicit input on
7 candidates from the department's regional director, and from
8 organizations representing all aspects of fish and wildlife.

9 (ii) The counties within each region must select one person to
10 represent their region on the fish and wildlife commission. Each
11 county legislative authority must delegate one member to vote on the
12 final list of nominated candidates.

13 (iii) If a vacancy occurs prior to the expiration of a term, the
14 appropriate counties shall conduct the appointment process
15 established in this subsection (1)(a) to appoint a registered voter
16 within 60 days to complete the term.

17 (b) The governor shall appoint three additional at-large members
18 with the advice and consent of the senate. At least one at-large
19 member must reside in eastern Washington and at least one at-large
20 member must reside in western Washington. If a vacancy occurs prior
21 to the expiration of a term, the governor shall appoint a registered
22 voter within 60 days to complete the term.

23 (c) No region may be represented on the commission by more than
24 two members.

25 (2) To establish staggered terms, initial appointees to the
26 commission shall draw lots to determine:

27 (a) Three appointees whose initial term ends after two years; and

28 (b) Three appointees whose initial term ends after four years.

29 (3) Initial regional appointments made pursuant to subsection
30 (1)(a) of this section must be made by December 31, 2025, and begin
31 their terms January 1, 2026.

32 (4) The term of each commissioner appointed as of January 1,
33 2025, ends on December 31, 2025. Commissioners appointed as of June
34 1, 2025, are eligible for reappointment pursuant to this section.

35 (5) The legal office of the commission is at the administrative
36 office of the department in Olympia.

37 **Sec. 2.** RCW 77.04.040 and 1995 1st sp.s. c 2 s 3 are each
38 amended to read as follows:

1 Persons eligible for appointment as members of the commission
2 (~~shall have general knowledge of the habits and distribution of fish~~
3 ~~and wildlife~~) must have held a hunting or fishing license under
4 either chapter 77.32 or 77.65 RCW, or both, in three of the five
5 years immediately preceding appointment, and shall not hold another
6 state, county, or municipal elective or appointive office. In making
7 these appointments, the governor and appointing counties shall seek
8 to maintain a balance reflecting all aspects of fish and wildlife,
9 including representation recommended by organized groups representing
10 sportfishers, commercial fishers, hunters, private landowners, and
11 environmentalists. Persons eligible for appointment as fish and
12 wildlife commissioners shall comply with the provisions of
13 chapter(~~s~~) 42.52 (~~and 42.17~~) RCW and Title 29B RCW.

14 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 77.04
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 Subject to amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the
17 commission shall convene in-person meetings in each of the
18 department's six regions, as those regions existed on January 1,
19 2025, to increase the capacity of participants to represent different
20 interests and constructively communicate and address conflicts.

21 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 77.12
22 RCW to read as follows:

23 The department is encouraged to invite commissioners to
24 participate in any department training offered to staff on tribal
25 sovereignty, treaty rights, comanagement, and working with tribal
26 governments. Within existing resources, commissioners may participate
27 in such training.

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