

As Further Amended by House Committee

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Session of 2024

SENATE BILL No. 347

By Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

1-16

AN ACT concerning wildlife and parks; relating to the wildlife and parks commission; **abolishing the existing commission; creating a new Kansas wildlife and parks commission; granting appointment authority to multiple state officers; authorizing the election of the chairperson thereof;** requiring senate confirmation of appointees thereto; amending K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 32-805 and repealing the existing section.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 32-805 is hereby amended to read as follows: 32-805. (a) **(1) On January 1, 2025, the Kansas wildlife and parks commission, as such commission existed on December 31, 2024, is hereby abolished. On January 1, 2025, there is hereby created the Kansas wildlife and parks commission** within and as a part of the Kansas department ~~the Kansas~~ of wildlife and parks ~~commission, and~~. Such commission **created on January 1, 2025**, shall be composed of seven members. ~~The governor~~ as follows:

(A) **Four members appointed by the governor who shall serve four-year terms and each such member shall represent a different fish and wildlife administration region; and**

(B) **of the three remaining members:**

(i) **One member appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;**

~~(C)(ii)~~ **one member appointed by the president of the senate; ~~and~~**

~~(D)(iii)~~ **one member appointed by the attorney general, and such member shall represent the remaining fifth fish and wildlife administration region not represented pursuant to subsection (a)(1) (A); and**

(iv) **the three members shall serve an initial term of two years and thereafter shall be appointed to a term of four years.**

(2) **Each respective appointing authority shall make such appointing authority's initial appointment on or before January ~~17~~ 15, 2025.**

(3) **Each respective appointing authority shall appoint residents of**

1 this state to be members of the commission, ~~subject to confirmation by the~~
2 ~~senate as provided in K.S.A. 75-4315b, and amendments thereto. Except~~
3 ~~as provided in K.S.A. 46-2601, and amendments thereto, no person~~
4 ~~appointed to the commission shall exercise any power, duty or function as~~
5 ~~a member of the commission until confirmed by the senate. Confirmation~~
6 ~~by the senate is to preserve the rights guaranteed by section 21 of the bill~~
7 ~~of rights of the constitution of the state of Kansas.~~

8 (4) One member of the commission shall be chosen from each fish
9 and wildlife administration region as established by the department. In the
10 appointment of members of the commission, ~~the governor~~ **each respective**
11 **appointing authority** shall give consideration to the appointment of
12 licensed hunters, fishermen and furharvesters, park users and to
13 nonconsumptive users of wildlife and park resources. ~~No~~ Not more than a
14 majority of the members shall be of the same political party. Each member
15 of the commission shall hold office for a term of four years and until a
16 successor is appointed and qualified. ~~The governor~~ **Each respective**
17 **appointing authority** shall fill any vacancy on the commission prior to
18 the expiration of a term by appointment for the unexpired term.

19 (b) Each member of the commission shall take and subscribe an oath
20 or affirmation as required by law before taking office.

21 (c) ~~The governor~~ **Each respective appointing authority** may remove
22 a commissioner after opportunity for a hearing in accordance with the
23 provisions of the Kansas administrative procedure act. If ~~the~~ **such**
24 commissioner is removed, ~~the governor~~ **respective appointing authority**
25 shall file in the office of the secretary of state a complete statement of all
26 charges made against such commissioner and ~~the governor's~~ **respective**
27 **appointing authority's** findings thereon, together with a complete record
28 of the proceedings.

29 (d) The commission shall have such powers, duties and functions as
30 prescribed by law. Other than rules and regulations pertaining to personnel
31 matters of the department, the secretary shall submit to the commission all
32 proposed rules and regulations. The commission shall either approve,
33 modify and approve, or reject such proposed rules and regulations. The
34 secretary shall adopt such rules and regulations so approved or so modified
35 and approved. Fees established for licenses, permits, stamps and other
36 issues of the department shall be subject to the approval of the
37 commission. It also shall be the duty of the commission to serve in an
38 advisory capacity to the governor and the secretary in the formulation of
39 policies and plans relating to the department.

40 (e) ~~The governor~~ **members of the commission** shall ~~designate~~ **elect**
41 one commission member to serve as chairperson of the commission **for a**
42 **term not to exceed two years**. Members of the commission attending
43 meetings of the commission, or attending a subcommittee meeting thereof

1 authorized by the commission, shall be paid compensation, subsistence
2 allowances, mileage and other expenses as provided in K.S.A. 75-3223,
3 and amendments thereto. A majority of the members of the commission
4 shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Meetings may be
5 called by the chairperson and shall be called on the request of a majority of
6 the members of the commission.

7 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 32-805 is hereby repealed.

8 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
9 publication in the Kansas register.