

By the Committee on Ethics and Elections; and Senator Stewart

582-03191-18

2018316c1

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the Environmental Regulation  
3           Commission; amending s. 20.255, F.S.; requiring the  
4           Governor to appoint a new member to the commission  
5           within a certain timeframe after the occurrence of a  
6           vacancy; providing an effective date.

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8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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10           Section 1. Subsection (6) of section 20.255, Florida  
11           Statutes, is amended to read:

12           20.255 Department of Environmental Protection.—There is  
13           created a Department of Environmental Protection.

14           (6) There is created as a part of the Department of  
15           Environmental Protection an Environmental Regulation Commission.

16           (a) The commission shall be composed of seven residents of  
17           this state appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by  
18           the Senate. In making appointments, the Governor shall provide  
19           reasonable representation from all sections of the state.

20           Membership shall be representative of agriculture, the  
21           development industry, local government, the environmental  
22           community, lay citizens, and members of the scientific and  
23           technical community who have substantial expertise in the areas  
24           of the fate and transport of water pollutants, toxicology,  
25           epidemiology, geology, biology, environmental sciences, or  
26           engineering.

27           (b) The Governor shall, within 90 days after the occurrence  
28           of a vacancy on the commission, appoint a new member, subject to  
29           confirmation by the Senate.

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30       (c) The Governor shall appoint the chair, and the vice  
31 chair shall be elected from among the membership. All  
32 appointments shall be for 4-year terms.

33       (d) ~~The Governor may at any time fill a vacancy for the~~  
34 ~~unexpired term.~~ The members of the commission shall serve  
35 without compensation, but shall be paid travel and per diem as  
36 provided in s. 112.061 while in the performance of their  
37 official duties. Administrative, personnel, and other support  
38 services necessary for the commission shall be furnished by the  
39 department. The commission may employ independent counsel and  
40 contract for the services of outside technical consultants.

41       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.