

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation
 3 Commission; providing a short title; amending s.
 4 379.102, F.S.; providing for regional and at-large
 5 representation on the commission; revising membership
 6 of the commission; providing for staggered terms;
 7 providing for the filling of vacancies; authorizing
 8 the commission to define the geographic boundaries of
 9 the regions; requiring compliance with specified
 10 provisions; amending s. 379.3311, F.S.; prohibiting
 11 certain persons from entering upon private land
 12 without a warrant; providing an effective date.

13
 14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

15
 16 **Section 1.** This act shall be known as the "Fish and
 17 Wildlife Conservation Commission Regional Representation Act."

18 **Section 2. Section 379.102, Florida Statutes, is amended**
 19 **to read:**

20 379.102 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.—

21 (1) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall
 22 consist of seven members who shall be appointed by the Governor,
 23 subject to confirmation by the Senate, ~~for staggered terms of 5~~
 24 ~~years.~~

25 (2) Members of the commission ~~so appointed~~ shall annually

26 | select one of their members as chair. ~~The~~ Such chair may be
27 | removed at any time for sufficient cause, by the affirmative
28 | vote of the majority of the members of the commission. ~~If~~ In
29 | ~~ease~~ the ~~said~~ office of chair becomes vacant by removal or
30 | otherwise, it ~~the same~~ may be filled for the unexpired term at
31 | any time by the commission from its members.

32 | (3) (a) To ensure statewide representation, one member
33 | shall reside full-time within each of the five regions
34 | established by the commission. The five regions are as follows:

35 | 1. Northwest Region.

36 | 2. North Central Region.

37 | 3. Northeast Region.

38 | 4. Southwest Region.

39 | 5. South Region.

40 | (b) The remaining two members shall be appointed as at-
41 | large members, representing the state as a whole.

42 | (4) (a) Each regional member must reside full-time within
43 | the boundaries of his or her respective region at the time of
44 | appointment and throughout his or her term of service.

45 | (b) The at-large members are not subject to regional
46 | residency requirements but must be residents of this state.

47 | (5) (a) Members shall serve staggered terms of 3 years.

48 | (b) A vacancy occurring during the term of a member shall
49 | be filled in the same manner as the original appointment and for
50 | the remainder of the unexpired term.

51 (c) A vacancy may not be filled by a member who resides in
 52 the same region as a sitting member.

53 (6) (a) The commission is authorized to take all necessary
 54 actions to define the geographic boundaries of the five regions.

55 (b) The Governor shall ensure compliance with this section
 56 when appointing members to the commission.

57 (7)~~(3)~~ Commission members shall receive no compensation
 58 for their services as such, but shall be reimbursed for travel
 59 expenses as provided in s. 112.061.

60 **Section 3. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of subsection**
 61 **(2) of section 379.3311, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

62 379.3311 Police powers of commission and its agents.—

63 (1) The commission, the executive director and the
 64 executive director's assistants designated by her or him, and
 65 each commission officer are constituted peace officers with the
 66 power to make arrests for violations of the laws of this state
 67 when committed in the presence of the officer or when committed
 68 on lands under the supervision and management of the commission,
 69 the department, the Board of Trustees of the Internal
 70 Improvement Trust Fund, or the Department of Agriculture and
 71 Consumer Services, including state parks, coastal and aquatic
 72 managed areas, and greenways and trails. The general laws
 73 applicable to arrests by peace officers of this state shall also
 74 be applicable to such director, assistants, and commission
 75 officers. Such persons may enter upon any land or waters of the

76 | state for performance of their lawful duties and may take with
77 | them any necessary equipment, and such entry does not constitute
78 | a trespass; however, such persons may not enter upon any private
79 | land without a warrant.

80 | (2) Such officers may enforce throughout the state all
81 | laws relating to game, nongame birds, fish, and fur-bearing
82 | animals and all rules and regulations of the commission relating
83 | to wild animal life, marine life, and freshwater aquatic life,
84 | and in connection with such laws, rules, and regulations, in the
85 | enforcement thereof and in the performance of their duties
86 | thereunder, to:

87 | (a) Go upon all premises, except for private land that
88 | requires such officers to have a warrant ~~posted or otherwise;~~

89 | **Section 4.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.