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.; specifying the
11	conditions under which commission officers and other
12	commission personnel may enter private property;
13	providing an effective date.
14	
15	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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17	Section 1. This act shall be known as the "Fish and
18	Wildlife Conservation Commission Regional Representation Act."
19	Section 2. Section 379.102, Florida Statutes, is amended
20	to read:
21	379.102 Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
22	(1) The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall
23	consist of seven members who shall be appointed by the Governor,
24	subject to confirmation by the Senate , for staggered terms of 5
25	years .
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26	(2) Members of the commission so appointed shall annually
27	select one of their members as chair. <u>The</u> Such chair may be
28	removed at any time for sufficient cause $_{m{ au}}$ by the affirmative
29	vote of the majority of the members of the commission. If $rac{{ m If}}{{ m In}}$
30	case the said office of chair becomes vacant by removal or
31	otherwise, $\underline{ ext{it}}$ the same may be filled for the unexpired term at
32	any time by the commission from its members.
33	(3)(a) To ensure statewide representation, one member
34	shall reside full-time within each of the five regions
35	established by the commission. The five regions are as follows:
36	1. Northwest Region.
37	2. North Central Region.
38	3. Northeast Region.
39	4. Southwest Region.
40	5. South Region.
41	(b) The remaining two members shall be appointed as at-
42	large members, representing the state as a whole.
43	(4) (a) Each regional member must reside full-time within
44	the boundaries of his or her respective region at the time of
45	appointment and throughout his or her term of service.
46	(b) The at-large members are not subject to regional
47	residency requirements but must be residents of this state.
48	(5)(a) Members shall serve staggered terms of 5 years.
49	(b) A vacancy occurring during the term of a member shall
50	be filled in the same manner as the original appointment and for
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51 the remainder of the unexpired term. 52 A vacancy for a regional member may not be filled by (C) 53 an individual who resides in the same region as a sitting 54 regional member. 55 (6) (a) The commission is authorized to take all necessary 56 actions to define the geographic boundaries of the five regions. 57 (b) The Governor shall ensure compliance with this section 58 when appointing members to the commission. (7) (3) Commission members shall receive no compensation 59 60 for their services as such, but shall be reimbursed for travel 61 expenses as provided in s. 112.061. 62 Section 3. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 379.3311, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 63 64 379.3311 Police powers of commission and its agents.-The commission, the executive director and the 65 (1)executive director's assistants designated by her or him, and 66 each commission officer are constituted peace officers with the 67 68 power to make arrests for violations of the laws of this state 69 when committed in the presence of the officer or when committed 70 on lands under the supervision and management of the commission, 71 the department, the Board of Trustees of the Internal 72 Improvement Trust Fund, or the Department of Agriculture and 73 Consumer Services, including state parks, coastal and aquatic 74 managed areas, and greenways and trails. The general laws applicable to arrests by peace officers of this state shall also 75

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be applicable to such director, assistants, and commission officers. Such persons may enter upon any land or waters of the state <u>in the same manner and subject to the same requirements as</u> <u>a law enforcement officer as defined in s. 943.10(1)</u> for performance of their lawful duties and may take with them any necessary equipment, and such entry does not constitute a trespass.

83 (2) Such officers may enforce throughout the state all 84 laws relating to game, nongame birds, fish, and fur-bearing 85 animals and all rules and regulations of the commission relating 86 to wild animal life, marine life, and freshwater aquatic life, 87 and in connection with such laws, rules, and regulations, in the 88 enforcement thereof and in the performance of their duties 89 thereunder, to:

90 (a) Go upon all premises <u>in the same manner and subject to</u> 91 <u>the same requirements as a law enforcement officer as defined in</u> 92 <u>s. 943.10(1)</u>, posted or otherwise;

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

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