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CS/CS/HB 1133

2025 Legislature

1
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:

16
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. The ~~Such~~ chair may be
28 removed at any time for sufficient cause, by the affirmative
29 vote of the majority of the members of the commission. If in
30 ~~ease~~ the ~~said~~ office of chair becomes vacant by removal or
31 otherwise, 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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the remainder of the unexpired term.

(c) A vacancy for a regional member may not be filled by an individual who resides in the same region as a sitting regional member.

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

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

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

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

379.3311 Police powers of commission and its agents.—

(1) The commission, the executive director and the executive director's assistants designated by her or him, and each commission officer are constituted peace officers with the power to make arrests for violations of the laws of this state when committed in the presence of the officer or when committed on lands under the supervision and management of the commission, the department, the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, or the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, including state parks, coastal and aquatic managed areas, and greenways and trails. The general laws applicable to arrests by peace officers of this state shall also

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76 | be applicable to such director, assistants, and commission
77 | officers. Such persons may enter upon any land or waters of the
78 | state in the same manner and subject to the same requirements as
79 | a law enforcement officer as defined in s. 943.10(1) for
80 | performance of their lawful duties and may take with them any
81 | necessary equipment, and such entry does not constitute a
82 | 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 in the same manner and subject to
91 | the same requirements as a law enforcement officer as defined in
92 | s. 943.10(1), ~~posted or otherwise;~~

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