

HB 2235 with Proposed Amendments

17 - 201. Game and fish department; game and fish commission; members; appointment;
Removal; meetings

- A. The laws of this state relating to wildlife shall be administered by the game and fish department. Control of the department is vested in the game and fish commission. The commission shall consist of five members, appointed by the governor pursuant to section 38-211. Not more than three members shall be members of the same political party, **FOUR OF THE FIVE COMMISSIONERS SHALL HOLD A VALID HUNTING, FISHING OR COMBINATION HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE PURSUANT TO 17-201 B** and no two members may be residents of the same county. NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 38-212, THE GOVERNOR SHALL NOT APPOINT A PERSON AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION WITHOUT VERIFYING TO THE SENATE THAT THE NOMINEE HAS A CONTINUOUS RECORDED REGISTRATION PURSUANT TO TITLE 16, CHAPTER 1 WITH THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY OR AS AN INDEPENDENT FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE APPOINTMENT.
- B. Members OF THE COMMISSION shall be well informed on the subject of wildlife and requirements for its conservation AND MUST DEMONSTRATE TO THE SENATE THAT THEY HAVE HELD A VALID HUNTING, **FISHING** OR COMBINATION HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE IN THIS STATE FOR AT LEAST FIVE **OF THE SEVEN** YEARS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE APPOINTMENT AND THAT THEY HAVE BEEN A RESIDENT OF THE STATE FOR AT LEAST TEN **OF THE LAST FIFTEEN** YEARS **PRECEEDING THE APPOINTMENT**.
- C. Appointments shall be for a term of not **MORE THAN** five years **OR NOT MORE THAN FIVE YEARS PLUS FULFILLMENT OF AN UNEXPIRED TERM PRECEEDING THE FIVE YEARS**, and shall expire the third Monday in January of the appropriate year. **INTERESTED PARTIES SHALL SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO FILL THE EXPIRING TERM OF A COMMISSIONER NOT LATER THAN NOVEMBER 30 OF THE YEAR PRECEEDING EXPIRATION OF A TERM**.
- D. APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE COMMISSION ARE PUBLIC RECORDS AND SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE UPON WRITTEN REQUEST TO THE OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENTS. THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE SHALL MAKE ALL APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION NOT LATER THAN THE SECOND WEEK IN DECEMBER BEFORE APPOINTMENT. **THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL OF APPLICATIONS DOES NOT APPLY TO MID TERM COMMISSION VACANCIES THAT MAY OCCUR AND A PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST FOR SUCH APPLICATION SHALL BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY UPON REQUEST**.