

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 that the executive director  
5 of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is  
6 the chair of the commission; providing for regional  
7 and at-large representation on the commission;  
8 revising membership of the commission; providing for  
9 staggered terms; authorizing the commission to define  
10 the geographic boundaries of the regions; providing  
11 construction; amending s. 379.3311, F.S.; prohibiting  
12 certain persons from entering upon private land  
13 without a warrant; 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.

26           (2) The executive director of the Fish and Wildlife  
 27 Conservation Commission shall be the chair of the commission.

28           (3) To ensure statewide representation, one member shall  
 29 reside full-time within each of the 5 regions established by the  
 30 commission. The five regions are as follows:

- 31           1. Northwest Region.
- 32           2. North Central Region.
- 33           3. Northeast Region.
- 34           4. Southwest Region.
- 35           5. South Region.

36           (d) The remaining two members shall be appointed as at-  
 37 large members, representing the state as a whole.

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

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

43           (5) (a) Members shall serve staggered terms of 5 years.

44           (b) A vacancy occurring during the term of a member shall  
 45 be filled in the same manner as the original appointment and for  
 46 the remainder of the unexpired term.

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

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

51 (c) This act does not affect the current composition of  
52 the commission until the expiration of existing terms, except  
53 when vacancies occur.

54 ~~(2) Members so appointed shall annually select one of~~  
55 ~~their members as chair. Such chair may be removed at any time~~  
56 ~~for sufficient cause, by the affirmative vote of the majority of~~  
57 ~~the members of the commission. In case the said office of chair~~  
58 ~~becomes vacant by removal or otherwise, the same may be filled~~  
59 ~~for the unexpired term at any time by the commission from its~~  
60 ~~members.~~

61 (7)~~(3)~~ Commission members shall receive no compensation  
62 for their services as such, but shall be reimbursed for travel  
63 expenses as provided in s. 112.061.

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

66 379.3311 Police powers of commission and its agents.—

67 (1) The commission, the executive director and the  
68 executive director's assistants designated by her or him, and  
69 each commission officer are constituted peace officers with the  
70 power to make arrests for violations of the laws of this state  
71 when committed in the presence of the officer or when committed  
72 on lands under the supervision and management of the commission,  
73 the department, the Board of Trustees of the Internal  
74 Improvement Trust Fund, or the Department of Agriculture and  
75 Consumer Services, including state parks, coastal and aquatic

76 managed areas, and greenways and trails. The general laws  
77 applicable to arrests by peace officers of this state shall also  
78 be applicable to such director, assistants, and commission  
79 officers. Such persons may enter upon any land or waters of the  
80 state for performance of their lawful duties and may take with  
81 them any necessary equipment, and such entry does not constitute  
82 a trespass; however, such persons may not enter upon any private  
83 land without a warrant.

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

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

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