

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE BILL NO. 503

BY REPRESENTATIVE ARMES

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES CMN: Adds new members to the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 36:601(A) and R.S. 56:1(B), (C), (D), and (E), relative to the  
3 Wildlife and Fisheries Commission; to increase the membership of the commission;  
4 to provide for appointment and terms of office; to provide an effective date; and to  
5 provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 36:601(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §601. Wildlife and fisheries commission

9 A. The control and supervision of the wildlife of the state, including all  
10 aquatic life, is vested in the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. The  
11 commission shall be in the executive branch and shall consist of ~~seven~~ ten members  
12 appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate. ~~Six~~ Nine of the  
13 members shall serve for overlapping terms of ~~six~~ nine years, and one shall serve for  
14 a term concurrent with that of the governor. Three members shall be electors of the  
15 coastal parishes and representatives of the commercial fishing and fur industries,  
16 One member shall reside in Northwest Louisiana, one member shall reside in North  
17 Central Louisiana, and one member shall reside in Northeast Louisiana, with each  
18 section of the northern portion of the state to be delineated in R.S. 56:1(C)(2), and  
19 four shall be electors from the state at large other than representatives of the

1 commercial fishing and fur industries, as provided by law. No member who has  
2 served ~~six~~ nine years or more shall be eligible for reappointment.

3 \* \* \*

4 Section 2. R.S. 56:1(B), (C), (D), and (E) are hereby amended and reenacted to read  
5 as follows:

6 §1. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission established; membership; qualifications;  
7 definitions

8 \* \* \*

9 B. The commission shall consist of ~~seven~~ ten members appointed by the  
10 governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate. ~~Six~~ Nine of the members shall each  
11 serve for overlapping terms of ~~six~~ nine years, and one shall serve for a term  
12 concurrent with that of the governor.

13 C.(1) Three members of the commission shall be electors of the coastal  
14 parishes and representatives of the commercial fishing and fur industries. One  
15 member shall reside in Northwest Louisiana, one member shall reside in North  
16 Central Louisiana, and one member shall reside in Northeast Louisiana, with each  
17 section of the northern portion of the state to be delineated in Paragraph (2) of this  
18 Subsection. The other four shall be electors from the state at large, other than  
19 representatives of the commercial fishing and fur industries.

20 (2) For purposes of this Subsection, Northwest Louisiana shall consist of the  
21 parishes of Bossier, Caddo, DeSoto, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, Vernon, and  
22 Webster; North Central Louisiana shall consist of the parishes of Bienville,  
23 Claiborne, Grant, Jackson, Lincoln, Rapides, Union, and Winn; and Northeast  
24 Louisiana shall consist of the parishes of Caldwell, Catahoula, Concordia, East  
25 Carroll, Franklin, LaSalle, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, and  
26 West Carroll.

27 D. The members of the commission ~~commissioners heretofore appointed~~  
28 ~~under the provisions of Article VI, Section 1 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1921~~  
29 ~~and presently serving as commissioners on January 1, 2015,~~ shall continue to serve

1 for the terms for which appointed. Thereafter, any vacancy occurring in the  
2 commission by reason of the expiration of the term for which appointed or by reason  
3 of death, resignation, or otherwise shall be filled by appointment by the governor;  
4 however, persons appointed to fill the vacancy created by a retiring or deceased  
5 commissioner shall be appointed for the unexpired term of such commissioner only.

6 E. No person who has served as commissioner for ~~six~~ nine years or more  
7 shall be eligible for reappointment.

8 \* \* \*

9 Section 3. Beginning January 1, 2015, each appointment made by the governor to  
10 the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall be made for a nine-year term. When appointing  
11 the three new commissioners contemplated by the provisions of this Act, the governor shall  
12 designate a commissioner to serve an initial term of six years, a commissioner to serve an  
13 initial term of seven years, and a commissioner to serve an initial term of eight years. In  
14 addition, the replacement appointment for the commissioner position which is opened due  
15 to the end of a term shall be for a term of nine years. Thereafter, each commissioner shall  
16 serve for an overlapping nine-year term.

17 Section 4. The provisions of this Act shall become effective if, as, and when the  
18 proposed amendment to the Louisiana Constitution proposed by the Act which originated  
19 as House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_ of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature is adopted at a  
20 statewide election and becomes effective.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Armes

HB No. 503

**Abstract:** Provides for the addition of three new members to the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Present law provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission consist of seven members to be appointed by the governor to represent certain industries and at large from the state.

Proposed law retains present law and adds three new members to be appointed by the governor. Specifies that the new members must each reside in certain segments of North La.

as delineated by proposed law. Further increases the term limit from six years to nine years, still with overlapping terms.

Proposed law provides transition guidance for the new appointees and for transition to the nine-year terms.

Proposed law becomes effective if, as, and when the amendment to the constitution proposed by HB No. \_\_\_\_\_ of the 2013 R.S. is adopted at a statewide election and becomes effective.

(Amends R.S. 36:601(A) and R.S. 56:1(B), (C), (D), and (E))