



February 20, 2024

SUMMARY OF BILL AS AMENDED (014171): Requires that appointees to the Fish and Wildlife Commission actively participate in the activities regulated by the commission, including hunting, angling, trapping, and boating.

Requires the commission to establish objectives enabling the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) to develop, manage, and maintain sound programs of wildlife-related outdoor recreational activities that have the primary purpose of utilizing such activities as the preferred method of wildlife management and conservation of game species within this state. Establishes that it is the policy of the state that the TWRA support and promote hunting, angling, and trapping, and including the management of predators through hunting and trapping, as preferred methods of wildlife management and conservation.

Establishes that the commission has the exclusive authority over the taking of game and fish, except to the extent such authority involves the regulation of the alteration of aquatic resources. Requires that any proclamation issued by the commission consider the recommendations of professional fish and wildlife biologists and recognize the lawful taking of game, including, but not limited to, hunting, angling, and trapping, as the preferred method of wildlife management and conservation within this state.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL AS AMENDED:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- It is unknown how the state will determine whether an appointee to the commission meets the requirement to participate in activities regulated by the commission, but it is assumed that such requirement will have no significant impact on the operations of the commission or the TWRA.
- This legislation generally clarifies the existing policies of the TWRA and is not assumed to have any significant impact upon its current operations.
- The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Division of Water Resources is the state's sole authority regarding regulation of aquatic resources and issues permits with regards to mitigation of impacts to the state's aquatic resources.
- This legislation does not impact the authority or operations of such division.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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