
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1699

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By House Agriculture and Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Kretz, Chapman, Lekanoff, Schmick, Springer, Dent, and Morgan)

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing salaries for the Washington fish
2 and wildlife commission; amending RCW 77.04.060 and 43.03.028;
3 creating a new section; providing an effective date; and declaring an
4 emergency.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the Washington
7 fish and wildlife commission provides an important service to the
8 state of Washington by protecting and preserving wildlife, fish, and
9 habitat. The commission also provides sustainable fish and wildlife
10 recreational and commercial opportunities that have significant
11 impacts on local economies through sporting and tourism endeavors. In
12 order to carry out these important duties, appointed commissioners
13 must make difficult sacrifices as they volunteer their time and
14 energy. Unfortunately, not all Washingtonians have the opportunity to
15 dedicate the time and resources necessary to serve in this position
16 and, therefore, they may be unable to accept a nomination. This makes
17 the commission less representative and leaves out valuable voices
18 from across all regions of the state.

19 Therefore, the legislature intends to provide a salary to the
20 fish and wildlife commissioners in an effort to reduce the burdens

1 placed on the commissioners and create a more inclusive and
2 representative commission.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 77.04.060 and 2013 c 23 s 238 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 The commission shall hold at least one regular meeting during the
6 first two months of each calendar quarter, and special meetings when
7 called by the chair and by five members. Five members constitute a
8 quorum for the transaction of business.

9 The commission at a meeting in each odd-numbered year shall elect
10 one of its members as chair and another member as vice chair, each of
11 whom shall serve for a term of two years or until a successor is
12 elected and qualified.

13 ~~((Members))~~ The annual salary for members of the commission shall
14 be ~~((compensated in accordance with RCW 43.03.250))~~ established by
15 the governor in accordance with the provisions of RCW 43.03.040. In
16 addition, members are allowed their travel expenses incurred while
17 absent from their usual places of residence in accordance with RCW
18 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

19 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.03.028 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 451 are each
20 amended to read as follows:

21 (1) The office of financial management shall study the duties and
22 salaries of the directors of the several departments and the members
23 of the several boards and commissions of state government, who are
24 subject to appointment by the governor or whose salaries are fixed by
25 the governor, and of the chief executive officers of the following
26 agencies of state government:

27 The arts commission; the human rights commission; the board of
28 accountancy; the eastern Washington historical society; the
29 Washington state historical society; the recreation and conservation
30 office; the criminal justice training commission; the traffic safety
31 commission; the horse racing commission; the public disclosure
32 commission; the state conservation commission; the commission on
33 Hispanic affairs; the commission on Asian Pacific American affairs;
34 the state board for volunteer firefighters and reserve officers; the
35 transportation improvement board; the public employment relations
36 commission; the fish and wildlife commission; and the energy
37 facilities site evaluation council.

1 (2) The office of financial management shall report to the
2 governor or the chairperson of the appropriate salary fixing
3 authority at least once in each fiscal biennium on such date as the
4 governor may designate, but not later than seventy-five days prior to
5 the convening of each regular session of the legislature during an
6 odd-numbered year, its recommendations for the salaries to be fixed
7 for each position.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
9 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
10 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
11 effect July 1, 2023.

--- END ---