

House Bill 2967

Sponsored by Representatives SMITH DB, OSBORNE (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Removes requirement that State Fish and Wildlife Commission consist of one member from each Oregon congressional district, one member from west of Cascade Mountains and one member from east of Cascade Mountains. Provides that commission members must reside in and have scientific expertise in distinct ecoregions across state.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to the State Fish and Wildlife Commission; creating new provisions; and amending ORS
3 496.090.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 496.090 is amended to read:

6 496.090. (1) There is established a State Fish and Wildlife Commission that shall consist of seven
7 members appointed by the Governor[.] **as follows:**

8 (a) **One member must reside in and have scientific expertise in the Nearshore Marine or**
9 **Coast Range;**

10 (b) **One member must reside in and have scientific expertise in the Willamette Valley;**

11 (c) **One member must reside in and have scientific expertise in the Klamath Mountains;**

12 (d) **One member must reside in and have scientific expertise in the West Cascades or**
13 **East Cascades;**

14 (e) **One member must reside in and have scientific expertise in the Blue Mountains;**

15 (f) **One member must reside in and have scientific expertise in the Columbia Plateau; and**

16 (g) **One member must reside in and have scientific expertise in the Northern Basin and**
17 **Range.**

18 (2) The term of office of each member is four years, but a member serves at the pleasure of the
19 Governor. Before the expiration of the term of a member, the Governor shall appoint a successor.
20 A member is eligible for reappointment. If there is a vacancy for any cause, the Governor shall make
21 an appointment to become immediately effective for the unexpired term.

22 (3) All appointments of members of the commission by the Governor are subject to confirmation
23 by the Senate pursuant to section 4, Article III, Oregon Constitution.

24 *[(4) One member of the commission shall be appointed from each of the congressional districts of*
25 *this state, one member from that portion of the state lying west of the Cascade Mountains and one*
26 *member from that portion of the state lying east of the Cascade Mountains.]*

27 *[(5)]* (4) Members appointed to the commission *[shall]* **must** be residents of this state, as defined
28 in ORS 497.002.

29 *[(6)]* (5) All members of the commission shall represent the public interest of the state and make
30 decisions affecting the wildlife resources of the state for the benefit of those resources. Consistent

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 with the requirements of this subsection, the commission shall provide for the productive and
2 sustainable utilization of wildlife resources for all groups of users.

3 [(7)] (6) All members of the commission shall have a general knowledge of fish and wildlife is-
4 sues and an understanding of the operation and functions of public policy boards and
5 commissions. [In making appointments to the commission,] The Governor shall [consider appointing]
6 **appoint** members who possess natural resource backgrounds such as backgrounds in commercial
7 fishing, recreational fishing, hunting, agriculture, forestry and conservation.

8 [(8)] (7) Failure of a member to maintain compliance with the eligibility requirements of [sub-
9 sections (4) and (5) of] this section [shall vacate] **vacates the member's** membership. Members of
10 the commission may otherwise be removed only by the Governor.

11 [(9)] (8) A member of the commission is entitled to compensation and expenses as provided in
12 ORS 292.495.

13 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 496.090 by section 1 of this 2023 Act apply to ap-**
14 **pointments to the State Fish and Wildlife Commission that the Governor makes on or after**
15 **the effective date of this 2023 Act.**

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