

Chapter 491

(House Bill 188)

AN ACT concerning

Natural Resources – Wildlife Advisory Commission – Membership

FOR the purpose of increasing the membership of the Wildlife Advisory Commission; requiring the Governor to appoint a member to the Wildlife Advisory Commission who is an academic researcher with certain expertise; requiring the membership of the Commission to include representation from certain stakeholder communities; and generally relating to the Wildlife Advisory Commission.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Natural Resources
 Section 1–102(c)(2)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Natural Resources

1–102.

(c) (2) (i) 1. [The] **SUBJECT TO SUBSUBPARAGRAPH 2 OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, THE** Wildlife Advisory Commission is composed of ~~nine~~ **10** members appointed by the Governor.

2. **THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT ONE MEMBER WHO IS AN ACADEMIC RESEARCHER WITH EXPERTISE IN WILDLIFE BIOLOGY, WILDLIFE CONSERVATION, WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT, OR ECOLOGY.**

(ii) 1. The Governor shall solicit nominations for vacancies on the Wildlife Advisory Commission from individuals or organizations that promote the future of hunting and individuals or organizations that promote the preservation of wildlife in the State, with geographical distribution being a prime consideration for filling vacancies.

2. There shall be representation from [the]:

A. **THE** farming community;

**B. THE HUNTING ~~OR FISHING~~ COMMUNITIES
COMMUNITY;**

C. THE WILDLIFE PRESERVATION COMMUNITY; AND

D. THE PASSIVE WILDLIFE RECREATION COMMUNITY.

- (iii) The term of a member is 4 years.
- (iv) A member may not serve more than 2 terms on the Commission.
- (v) The terms of members are staggered so that:
 1. 3 shall end in ~~1987~~ **2023**;
 2. 3 shall end in ~~1988~~; and **2024**;
 3. 3 shall end in ~~1989~~ **2025; AND**
 - 4. 1 SHALL END IN 2028.**

(vi) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

(vii) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act may not alter the term of a member of the Wildlife Advisory Commission that is serving as of the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Governor shall appoint one member to the Wildlife Advisory Commission in accordance with § 1-102(c)(2)(i) of the Natural Resources Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act. The member shall serve for a term of 4 years which shall begin on July 1, 2024, and shall terminate at the end of June 30, 2028, and the member shall serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

SECTION ~~2~~ 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2023.

Approved by the Governor, May 8, 2023.