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**By: Senator Hafer**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 1997

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Wildlife Advisory Commission - Membership and Authority**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the membership of the Wildlife Advisory Commission in  
4 the Department of Natural Resources; specifying the membership and terms of the  
5 Commission; requiring approval of certain regulations by the Commission before  
6 adoption by the Department; requiring approval by the Commission of certain  
7 activities on certain State lands; requiring the Department to conduct certain  
8 meetings during the process of adopting certain regulations; and generally relating  
9 to wildlife and angling regulation.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

11 Article - Natural Resources  
12 Section 1-102(c)(2) and (3), 4-602(a), and 5-209(a)  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (1989 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

16 Article - Natural Resources  
17 Section 10-205(a) and 10-808  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (1990 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

22 **Article - Natural Resources**

23 1-102.

24 (c) (2) (i) The Wildlife Advisory Commission is composed of [9] 13  
25 members appointed by the Governor.

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

30 2. There shall be representation from the farming community.]

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1 (II) THE MEMBERS OF THE WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
2 SHALL BE APPOINTED AS FOLLOWS:

3 1. THREE SHALL BE INDIVIDUALS, OR REPRESENTATIVES  
4 OF ORGANIZATIONS, THAT PROMOTE THE FUTURE OF HUNTING IN THE STATE;

5 2. THREE SHALL BE INDIVIDUALS, OR REPRESENTATIVES  
6 OF ORGANIZATIONS, THAT PROMOTE THE PRESERVATION OF WILDLIFE IN THE  
7 STATE;

8 3. ONE SHALL REPRESENT THE FARMING COMMUNITY;

9 4. FOUR SHALL BE SPORTSMEN, OR REPRESENTATIVES OF A  
10 SPORTSMEN'S ORGANIZATION, FROM EACH OF THE FOLLOWING REGIONS:

11 A. WESTERN MARYLAND;

12 B. CENTRAL MARYLAND;

13 C. SOUTHERN MARYLAND; AND

14 D. THE EASTERN SHORE; AND

15 5. TWO SHALL BE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

16 (III) GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION SHALL BE A PRIME  
17 CONSIDERATION FOR FILLING VACANCIES ON THE COMMISSION.

18 [(iii)] (IV) The term of a member is 4 years.

19 [(iv)] (V) A member may not serve more than 2 terms on the  
20 Commission.

21 [(v)] (VI) The terms of members are [staggered so that:

22 1. 3 shall end in 1987;

23 2. 3 shall end in 1988; and

24 3. 3 shall end in 1989] STAGGERED AS REQUIRED BY THE  
25 TERMS PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON OCTOBER 1, 1997.

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

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

30 (IX) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS ARTICLE,  
31 UNLESS WAIVED BY THE WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION, THE COMMISSION  
32 SHALL APPROVE:

33 1. A REGULATION GOVERNING ANGLING OR HUNTING  
34 UNDER TITLE 4, SUBTITLE 6 OR TITLE 10 OF THIS ARTICLE, INCLUDING A CATCH  
35 LIMIT OR SEASON, BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT MAY SUBMIT THE REGULATION FOR  
36 ADOPTION UNDER TITLE 10, SUBTITLE 1 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE; AND



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1           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2 October 1, 1997.