

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 320

(Senator Brooks, *et al.*)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Environment and Transportation

Natural Resources - Wildlife Advisory Commission - Membership

This bill increases the number of members of the Wildlife Advisory Commission – from 9 to 10 – and requires the Governor to appoint one member to the commission who is an academic researcher with expertise in wildlife biology, wildlife conservation, wildlife management, or ecology. The additional member must serve for a term of four years – beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2028 – and serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies. The bill also establishes that the terms of the commission members are staggered so that three end in 2023, three end in 2024, three end in 2025, and one ends in 2028; however, the bill may not alter the term of a member serving as of the effective date of the bill. The bill also requires that the commission include representation from the hunting, wildlife preservation, and passive wildlife recreation communities.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: There is a Wildlife Advisory Commission within the Department of Natural Resources, composed of nine members appointed by the Governor. The Governor must solicit nominations for vacancies on the 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. The commission must also have representation from the farming community. The term of a member is four years, and a member may not serve more than two terms on the commission. At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 188 (Delegate Palakovich Carr, *et al.*) - Environment and Transportation.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 2, 2023
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