

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 766 (Delegate Otto, *et al.*)
Environment and Transportation

Wildlife Advisory Commission - Membership - Alterations

This bill requires that a member of the Wildlife Advisory Commission appointed to represent the farming community be selected from a list of candidates provided by the Maryland Farm Bureau.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not directly 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 ten members appointed by the Governor, one of whom must be an academic researcher with expertise in wildlife biology, wildlife conservation, wildlife management, or ecology. 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 have representation from the farming community, the hunting community, the wildlife preservation community, and the passive wildlife recreation 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

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Governor's Office; Maryland Department of Agriculture; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2025
caw/sdk

Analysis by: Beatrice F. Amoateng

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510