

SENATE BILL NO. 31

INTRODUCED BY K. BALES

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS COMMISSION BY PROVIDING THAT AT LEAST ONE MEMBER MUST BE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THE BREEDING AND MANAGEMENT OF DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK AND HAVE AN OWNERSHIP INTEREST IN AT LEAST 1,280 ACRES OF LAND; AMENDING SECTION 2-15-3402, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 2-15-3402, MCA, is amended to read:

**"2-15-3402. Fish, wildlife, and parks commission.** (1) There is a fish, wildlife, and parks commission.

(2) The commission consists of five members. At least one member must be experienced in and actively engaged in the breeding and management of domestic livestock and own or be a shareholder, partner, owner, or member of a family corporation, family partnership, sole proprietorship, or family trust that owns at least 1,280 acres of land. The governor shall appoint one member from each of the following districts:

(a) District No. 1, consisting of Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders, Lake, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli, Granite, and Lewis and Clark Counties;

(b) District No. 2, consisting of Deer Lodge, Silver Bow, Beaverhead, Madison, Jefferson, Broadwater, Gallatin, Park, and Sweet Grass Counties;

(c) District No. 3, consisting of Glacier, Toole, Liberty, Hill, Pondera, Teton, Chouteau, Cascade, Judith Basin, Fergus, Blaine, Meagher, and Wheatland Counties;

(d) District No. 4, consisting of Phillips, Valley, Daniels, Sheridan, Roosevelt, Petroleum, Garfield, McCone, Richland, Dawson, and Wibaux Counties;

(e) District No. 5, consisting of Golden Valley, Musselshell, Stillwater, Carbon, Yellowstone, Big Horn, Treasure, Rosebud, Custer, Powder River, Carter, Fallon, and Prairie Counties.

(3) Appointments must be made without regard to political affiliation and must be made solely for the wise management of fish, wildlife, and state parks and other outdoor recreational resources of this state. A person may not be appointed to the commission unless the person is informed or interested and experienced in the

1 subject of fish, wildlife, parks, and outdoor recreation and the requirements for the conservation and protection  
2 of fish, wildlife, parks, and outdoor recreational resources.

3 (4) A vacancy occurring on the commission must be filled by the governor in the same manner and from  
4 the district in which the vacancy occurs.

5 (5) The fish, wildlife, and parks commission is designated as a quasi-judicial board for purposes of  
6 2-15-124. Notwithstanding the provisions of 2-15-124(1), the governor is not required to appoint an attorney to  
7 serve as a member of the commission."

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9 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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11 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Applicability.** [This act] applies to appointments made to the fish, wildlife,  
12 and parks commission on or after [the effective date of this act].

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