

SENATE BILL NO. 257

INTRODUCED BY M. CUFFE

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO THE UPPER COLUMBIA
5 CONSERVATION COMMISSION; REVISING THE NUMBER OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMISSION;
6 AMENDING SECTION 2-15-3310, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

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10 **Section 1.** Section 2-15-3310, MCA, is amended to read:
11 **"2-15-3310. Upper Columbia conservation commission.** (1) There is an upper Columbia conservation
12 commission within the department of natural resources and conservation. The commission is attached to the
13 department for administrative purposes only, as prescribed in 2-15-121.

14 (2) There are ~~nine~~ 13 14 voting commission members who are appointed by and serve at the pleasure
15 of the governor. They include one member at large and a representative of each of the following:

- 16 (a) the hydropower utility industry;
17 (b) electric cooperatives located within the Columbia River basin in Montana;
18 (c) conservation districts;
19 ~~(d) recreation organizations;~~
20 ~~(e)(d)~~ private industry;
21 ~~(f)(e)~~ private landowners;
22 ~~(g)(f)~~ the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes; ~~and~~
23 ~~(h)(g)~~ the invasive species council established in 2-15-3309; and
24 (h) a conservation, natural resources, or fishing or hunting organization representing each of the
25 following:

- 26 (i) the upper Clark Fork River basin;
27 (II) THE LOWER CLARK FORK RIVER BASIN;
28 ~~(ii)(III)~~ the Bitterroot River basin;
29 ~~(iii)(IV)~~ the Seeley-Swan BIG BLACKFOOT watershed;
30 ~~(iv)(V)~~ the Kootenai River basin; and

1 ~~(v)~~(vi) the Flathead River basin.

2 (3) The speaker of the house and the president of the senate shall each appoint ~~one~~ two nonvoting
3 member members to the commission. ~~The appointments must be coordinated so that the appointments are~~
4 ~~bipartisan~~ one each from the majority party and the minority party.

5 (4) The commission shall seek active input and participation in its deliberations from the U.S. forest
6 service, the national park service, the U.S. fish and wildlife service, the U.S. department of agriculture natural
7 resources conservation service, the U.S. army corps of engineers, the U.S. bureau of reclamation, and the
8 northwest power and conservation council.

9 (5) The commission members shall serve without pay. Unless otherwise provided by law, commission
10 members are entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses pursuant to 2-18-501 through 2-18-503.

11 (6) Commission members shall serve staggered 4-year terms.

12 (7) A majority of the voting membership of the commission constitutes a quorum to do business. A
13 favorable vote of at least a majority of the voting members is required to adopt any resolution, to approve a
14 motion, or to make any other decision, unless otherwise provided by law.

15 (8) The governor shall appoint the presiding officer."

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

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