

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 163
2 INTRODUCED BY P. FIELDER

3
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE FISH AND WILDLIFE
5 COMMISSION; AND AMENDING SECTION 2-15-3402, MCA."

6
7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

8
9 **Section 1.** Section 2-15-3402, MCA, is amended to read:

10 **"2-15-3402. Fish and wildlife commission.** (1) There is a fish and wildlife commission.

11 (2) (a) The commission consists of ~~five~~ seven members. At least one member must be experienced
12 in the breeding and management of domestic livestock. The governor shall appoint one member ~~from~~ for each
13 of the following districts:

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

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

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

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

22 ~~(e) District No. 5, consisting of Golden Valley, Musselshell, Stillwater, Carbon, Yellowstone, Big Horn,~~
23 ~~Treasure, Rosebud, Custer, Powder River, Carter, Fallon, and Prairie Counties.~~ administrative regions of the
24 department of fish, wildlife, and parks, which are headquartered in the following locations:

25 ~~(a)(i)~~ Kalispell;

26 ~~(b)(ii)~~ Missoula;

27 ~~(c)(iii)~~ Bozeman;

28 ~~(d)(iv)~~ Great Falls;

Amendment - 3rd Reading - Requested by: Paul Fielder

1 ~~(e)~~(v) Billings;

2 ~~(f)~~(vi) Glasgow; and

3 ~~(g)~~(vii) Miles City.

4 (b) (i) To be eligible to serve on the commission, the member must reside in the administrative region
5 the member will represent or within 10 air miles of the region's boundary as it exists on the date the member is
6 appointed.

7 (ii) If the commission adjusts a region's boundary after a member is appointed so that the member no
8 longer meets the requirements of subsection (2)(b)(i), the member may continue to represent the region until
9 the member's current term expires.

10 (3) Appointments must be made without regard to political affiliation and must be made solely for the
11 wise management of fish, wildlife, and related recreational resources of this state. A person may not be
12 appointed to the commission unless the person is informed or interested and experienced in the subject of fish,
13 wildlife, and recreation and the requirements for the conservation and protection of fish, wildlife, and
14 recreational resources.

15 (4) A vacancy occurring on the commission must be filled by the governor in the same manner and
16 from the ~~district~~ administrative region in which the vacancy occurs.

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

20 - END -