

As Amended by House Committee

Session of 2024

SENATE BILL No. 347

By Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

1-16

1 AN ACT concerning wildlife and parks; relating to the wildlife and parks
2 commission; **abolishing the existing commission; creating a new**
3 **Kansas wildlife and parks commission; granting appointment**
4 **authority to multiple state officers; authorizing the election of the**
5 **chairperson thereof;** requiring senate confirmation of appointees
6 thereto; amending K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 32-805 and repealing the existing
7 section.
8

9 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

10 Section 1. K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 32-805 is hereby amended to read as
11 follows: 32-805. (a) **(1) On January 1, 2025, the Kansas wildlife and**
12 **parks commission, as such commission existed on December 31, 2024,**
13 **is hereby abolished. On January 1, 2025, there is hereby created the**
14 *Kansas wildlife and parks commission* within and as a part of the *Kansas*
15 department ~~the Kansas of~~ wildlife and parks ~~commission,~~ and. Such
16 commission **created on January 1, 2025,** shall be composed of seven
17 members. ~~The governor~~ as follows:

18 **(A) Four members appointed by the governor;**

19 **(B) one member appointed by the speaker of the house of**
20 **representatives;**

21 **(C) one member appointed by the president of the senate; and**

22 **(D) one member appointed by the attorney general.**

23 **(2) Each respective appointing authority shall make such**
24 **appointing authority's initial appointment on or before January 17,**
25 **2025.**

26 **(3) Each respective appointing authority** shall appoint residents of
27 this state to be members of the commission, *subject to confirmation by the*
28 *senate as provided in K.S.A. 75-4315b, and amendments thereto. Except*
29 *as provided in K.S.A. 46-2601, and amendments thereto, no person*
30 *appointed to the commission shall exercise any power, duty or function as*
31 *a member of the commission until confirmed by the senate. Confirmation*
32 *by the senate is to preserve the rights guaranteed by section 21 of the bill*
33 *of rights of the constitution of the state of Kansas.*

34 **(4) One member of the commission shall be chosen from each fish**
35 **and wildlife administration region as established by the department. In the**
36 **appointment of members of the commission, ~~the governor~~ each respective**

1 **appointing authority** shall give consideration to the appointment of
2 licensed hunters, fishermen and furharvesters, park users and to
3 nonconsumptive users of wildlife and park resources. ~~No~~ *Not* more than a
4 majority of the members shall be of the same political party. Each member
5 of the commission shall hold office for a term of four years and until a
6 successor is appointed and qualified. ~~The governor~~ **Each respective**
7 **appointing authority** shall fill any vacancy on the commission prior to
8 the expiration of a term by appointment for the unexpired term.

9 (b) Each member of the commission shall take and subscribe an oath
10 or affirmation as required by law before taking office.

11 (c) ~~The governor~~ **Each respective appointing authority** may remove
12 a commissioner after opportunity for a hearing in accordance with the
13 provisions of the Kansas administrative procedure act. ~~If the~~ **such**
14 commissioner is removed, ~~the governor~~ **respective appointing authority**
15 shall file in the office of the secretary of state a complete statement of all
16 charges made against such commissioner and ~~the governor's~~ **respective**
17 **appointing authority's** findings thereon, together with a complete record
18 of the proceedings.

19 (d) The commission shall have such powers, duties and functions as
20 prescribed by law. Other than rules and regulations pertaining to personnel
21 matters of the department, the secretary shall submit to the commission all
22 proposed rules and regulations. The commission shall either approve,
23 modify and approve, or reject such proposed rules and regulations. The
24 secretary shall adopt such rules and regulations so approved or so modified
25 and approved. Fees established for licenses, permits, stamps and other
26 issues of the department shall be subject to the approval of the
27 commission. It also shall be the duty of the commission to serve in an
28 advisory capacity to the governor and the secretary in the formulation of
29 policies and plans relating to the department.

30 (e) ~~The governor~~ **members of the commission** shall ~~designate~~ **elect**
31 one commission member to serve as chairperson of the commission **for a**
32 **term not to exceed two years**. Members of the commission attending
33 meetings of the commission, or attending a subcommittee meeting thereof
34 authorized by the commission, shall be paid compensation, subsistence
35 allowances, mileage and other expenses as provided in K.S.A. 75-3223,
36 and amendments thereto. A majority of the members of the commission
37 shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Meetings may be
38 called by the chairperson and shall be called on the request of a majority of
39 the members of the commission.

40 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 32-805 is hereby repealed.

41 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
42 publication in the Kansas register.