
HOUSE BILL 3144

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2010 Regular Session

By Representatives Kretz, Blake, and Chandler

Read first time 01/28/10. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to the appointment of regional directors at the
2 department of fish and wildlife; and amending RCW 77.04.080.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 77.04.080 and 2000 c 107 s 205 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1)(a) Persons eligible for appointment as director shall have
7 practical knowledge of the habits and distribution of fish and
8 wildlife. The director shall supervise the administration and
9 operation of the department and perform the duties prescribed by law
10 and delegated by the commission. The director shall carry out the
11 basic goals and objectives prescribed under RCW 77.04.055. The
12 director may, consistent with this section, appoint and employ
13 necessary personnel. The director may delegate, in writing, to
14 department personnel the duties and powers necessary for efficient
15 operation and administration of the department.

16 (b) Only persons having general knowledge of the fisheries and
17 wildlife resources and of the commercial and recreational fishing
18 industry in this state are eligible for appointment as director. The

1 director shall not have a financial interest in the fishing industry or
2 a directly related industry. The director shall receive the salary
3 fixed by the governor under RCW 43.03.040.

4 (c) The director is the ex officio secretary of the commission and
5 shall attend its meetings and keep a record of its business.

6 (2)(a) Prior to appointing or employing an individual as the
7 regional director of a departmental suboffice, the department's
8 director must ensure that the candidate is fully vetted with the local
9 community.

10 (b) Full local vetting may only be assured if the regional director
11 candidate has met with, or at least shown a good faith attempt to meet
12 with, the following prior to the candidate's appointment:

13 (i) Each member of the state house of representatives whose
14 legislative district includes geographic areas included in the
15 applicable departmental region;

16 (ii) Each member of the state senate whose legislative district
17 includes geographic areas included in the applicable departmental
18 region; and

19 (iii) Each member of the county legislative authorities for every
20 county included in the applicable departmental region's geographic
21 area.

22 (c) If any one of the county legislative authorities votes, as a
23 body, in the majority to express nonconfidence in the regional director
24 candidate prior to the candidate's permanent appointment, the
25 department director must suspend that person's candidacy. Once a
26 person has his or her candidacy suspended under this section, he or she
27 may not be reconsidered for a regional director position for any
28 geographic area that contains the county or counties expressing
29 nonconfidence for a period of thirty-six months.

30 (d) This subsection applies to permanent appointments. A person
31 may serve as an interim regional director for up to three months prior
32 to satisfying the requirements of this section.

--- END ---