

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5818

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As of February 17, 2015

**Title:** An act relating to the composition of the fish and wildlife commission.

**Brief Description:** Concerning the composition of the fish and wildlife commission.

**Sponsors:** Senator Chase.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Natural Resources & Parks: 2/18/15.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS

**Staff:** Curt Gavigan (786-7437)

**Background:** Role of the Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission). The Legislature has authorized the Commission to establish policies relating to fish and wildlife species and to monitor the Department of Fish and Wildlife's (DFW's) implementation of those policies. Among other duties, the Commission also classifies wildlife and establishes the basic rules and regulations governing the time, place, manner, and methods used to harvest or enjoy fish and wildlife.

Composition of the Fish and Wildlife Commission. The Commission consists of nine members who serve six-year terms. Members are appointed by the Governor and subject to Senate confirmation. Each odd-numbered year, the Commission must elect one of its members as chair and another member as vice-chair.

Persons eligible for appointment as members of the Commission must have general knowledge of the habits and distribution of fish and wildlife. In making appointments to the Commission, the Governor must seek to maintain a balance reflecting all aspects of fish and wildlife, including representation recommended by sport fishers, commercial fishers, hunters, private landowners, and environmentalists.

Commission Geographic Residency Requirements. Three commissioners must reside east of the summit of the Cascade mountains, three must reside west of the summit, and three are appointed at large. No two commissioners may be residents of the same county.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Summary of Bill:** In addition to current requirements, the Governor must ensure an equitable balance between:

- those with specific background, experience, and knowledge relevant to recreational fishing; and
- those with specific background, experience, and knowledge relevant to commercial fishing.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.