
HOUSE BILL 1699

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Kretz, Chapman, Lekanoff, Schmick, Springer, Dent, and Morgan

Read first time 02/01/23. Referred to Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing salaries for the Washington fish
2 and wildlife commission; amending RCW 77.04.060 and 43.03.310; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the Washington
6 fish and wildlife commission provides an important service to the
7 state of Washington by protecting and preserving wildlife, fish, and
8 habitat. The commission also provides sustainable fish and wildlife
9 recreational and commercial opportunities that have significant
10 impacts on local economies through sporting and tourism endeavors. In
11 order to carry out these important duties, appointed commissioners
12 must make difficult sacrifices as they volunteer their time and
13 energy. Unfortunately, not all Washingtonians have the opportunity to
14 dedicate the time and resources necessary to serve in this position
15 and, therefore, they may be unable to accept a nomination. This makes
16 the commission less representative and leaves out valuable voices
17 from across all regions of the state.

18 Therefore, the legislature intends to provide a salary to the
19 fish and wildlife commissioners in an effort to reduce the burdens
20 placed on the commissioners and create a more inclusive and
21 representative commission.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 77.04.060 and 2013 c 23 s 238 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 The commission shall hold at least one regular meeting during the
4 first two months of each calendar quarter, and special meetings when
5 called by the chair and by five members. Five members constitute a
6 quorum for the transaction of business.

7 The commission at a meeting in each odd-numbered year shall elect
8 one of its members as chair and another member as vice chair, each of
9 whom shall serve for a term of two years or until a successor is
10 elected and qualified.

11 (~~Members~~) The annual salary for members of the commission shall
12 be (~~compensated in accordance with RCW 43.03.250~~) established by
13 the Washington citizens' commission on salaries for elected
14 officials. In addition, members are allowed their travel expenses
15 incurred while absent from their usual places of residence in
16 accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

17 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.03.310 and 2009 c 564 s 925 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

19 (1) The citizens' commission on salaries for elected officials
20 shall study the relationship of salaries to the duties of members of
21 the legislature, all elected officials of the executive branch of
22 state government, (~~and~~) all judges of the supreme court, court of
23 appeals, superior courts, and district courts, and members of the
24 Washington fish and wildlife commission, and shall fix the salary for
25 each respective position.

26 (2) Except as provided otherwise in RCW 43.03.305 and this
27 section, the commission shall be solely responsible for its own
28 organization, operation, and action and shall enjoy the fullest
29 cooperation of all state officials, departments, and agencies.

30 (3) Members of the commission shall receive no compensation for
31 their services, but shall be eligible to receive a subsistence
32 allowance and travel expenses pursuant to RCW 43.03.050 and
33 43.03.060.

34 (4) The members of the commission shall elect a chair from among
35 their number. The commission shall set a schedule of salaries by an
36 affirmative vote of not less than nine members of the commission.

37 (5) The commission shall file its initial schedule of salaries
38 for the elected officials with the secretary of state no later than
39 the first Monday in June, 1987, and shall file a schedule biennially

1 thereafter. Each such schedule shall be filed in legislative bill
2 form, shall be assigned a chapter number and published with the
3 session laws of the legislature, and shall be codified by the statute
4 law committee. The signature of the chair of the commission shall be
5 affixed to each schedule submitted to the secretary of state. The
6 chair shall certify that the schedule has been adopted in accordance
7 with the provisions of state law and with the rules, if any, of the
8 commission. Such schedules shall become effective ninety days after
9 the filing thereof, except as provided in Article XXVIII, section 1
10 of the state Constitution. State laws regarding referendum petitions
11 shall apply to such schedules to the extent consistent with Article
12 XXVIII, section 1 of the state Constitution.

13 (6) Before the filing of any salary schedule, the commission
14 shall first develop a proposed salary schedule and then hold no fewer
15 than four regular meetings as defined by chapter 42.30 RCW to take
16 public testimony on the proposed schedule within the four months
17 immediately preceding the filing. In the 2009-2011 fiscal biennium,
18 the commission shall hold no more than two regular meetings as
19 defined by chapter 42.30 RCW to take public testimony on the proposed
20 schedule within the four months immediately preceding the filing. At
21 the last public hearing that is held as a regular meeting on the
22 proposed schedule, the commission shall adopt the salary schedule as
23 originally proposed or as amended at that meeting that will be filed
24 with the secretary of state.

25 (7) All meetings, actions, hearings, and business of the
26 commission shall be subject in full to the open public meetings act,
27 chapter 42.30 RCW.

28 (8) Salaries of the officials referred to in subsection (1) of
29 this section that are in effect on January 12, 1987, shall continue
30 until modified by the commission under this section.

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