

## **Changes to the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission; HB 2530**

**HB 2530** makes changes to the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission (Commission).

### ***Commission Membership Appointments***

The bill requires the seven members of the Commission to be residents of Kansas who are appointed by the following appointing authorities for the Fish and Wildlife Administration regions (Region) in the state:

- One at-large member appointed by the Governor;
- One member appointed by the Governor who will represent Region One;
- One member appointed by the Governor who will represent Region Two;
- One member appointed by the Governor who will represent Region Five;
- One member appointed by the Speaker of the House (Speaker) who will represent Region Four;
- One member appointed by the President of the Senate (President) who will represent Region Three; and
- One at-large member appointed by the Attorney General.

The bill removes the Governor's authority to appoint all seven members of the Commission, one member from each Region in the state.

On July 1, 2024, each appointing authority may appoint a new member to replace the current incumbent member; or, the incumbent member may serve for the remainder of their term.

The bill prohibits each appointing authority from appointing a controlled shooting area licensee or any employee of the licensee, or any persons who provide hunting outfitting services or hunting guide services as members of the Commission.

### ***Commission Terms***

The bill authorizes the four members appointed by the Governor to serve four-year terms. The three members appointed by the Speaker, President, and Attorney General will serve initial two-year terms and then four-year terms thereafter.

### ***Commission Action***

The bill requires the Commission to preserve the rights guaranteed by Section 21 of the Bill of Rights of the *Kansas Constitution* regarding the right of the public to hunt, fish, and trap wildlife.

### ***Commission Chairperson***

The bill authorizes the Commission members to elect a chairperson for a term not to exceed two years and removes the Governor's authority to appoint the Chairperson without a term limit. In the event of a vacancy of the chairperson, the Commission members will elect a successor for the remainder of the chairperson's term. The bill authorizes the Commission to elect a new chairperson upon the expiration of the Chairperson's two-year term.

### ***Conforming Amendments***

To reflect the appointment of Commission members by entities other than the Governor, the bill removes the term "governor" throughout the bill and replaces it with the term "each respective appointing authority" or "respective appointing authority."