

## OKLAHOMA CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE XXVI - DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

#### SECTION XXVI-1

Creation of Department - Wildlife Conservation Commission - Membership - Appointment - Tenure - Vacancies - Oath and Bonds.

There is hereby created a Department of Wildlife Conservation of the State of Oklahoma and an Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission. The Department of Wildlife Conservation shall be governed by the Wildlife Conservation Director, hereinafter created, under such rules, regulations and policies as may be prescribed from time to time by the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission. Such rules and regulations and amendments thereof shall be filed and recorded in the office of the Secretary of State, and shall become effective on the tenth (10th) day following such filing.

Said Commission shall be composed of eight (8) members to be appointed by the Governor by and with the consent of the Senate and shall be removable only for cause, as provided by law for the removal of officers not subject to impeachment; one (1) member from each of eight (8) districts as the same are presently defined by Title 29 O.S.1951, Section 104. The term of office of each such member shall be eight (8) years, except that the first appointed members shall hold office for terms as follows: the member appointed from the first district shall hold office until July 1st following his appointment, and the members appointed from the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth districts shall hold office until July 1st of the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth succeeding calendar years, respectively. In the event the Governor fails to fill a vacancy within thirty (30) days following such vacancy, the remaining members of the Commission may appoint a qualified person to fill such vacancy for the unexpired portion of the term.

The members of the Commission shall receive no salary or other compensation for their services, other than per diem and expenses as may be authorized by the Legislature.

Each member of the Commission shall take the oaths required of other State officers, and each shall execute a good and sufficient corporate surety bond in the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) payable to the State of Oklahoma, and conditioned upon the faithful performance of duty, and the premium thereon shall be payable by the State.

Added by State Question No. 374, Referendum Petition No. 115, adopted at election held on July 3, 1956.

#### SECTION XXVI-2

Game and fish laws not repealed - Acquisition of property.

Nothing in this Act shall repeal any existing laws now on the Statute, pertaining to game and fish.

The Commission may acquire by purchase, gift, grants-in-aid from the Federal Government, or otherwise, all property necessary, useful

or convenient for its use in carrying out the objects and purposes of this Article.

Added by State Question No. 374, Referendum Petition No. 115, adopted at election held on July 3, 1956.

#### SECTION XXVI-3

Director of Wildlife Conservation.

A Director of Wildlife Conservation shall be appointed by a majority vote of the entire Commission, who shall be removed only for cause and after public hearing by the Commission. His duties and compensation for his services shall be fixed by a majority vote of the entire Commission.

The Director shall, with the approval of the Commission, appoint such assistants and employees as the Commission may deem necessary.

The Commission shall determine the qualifications of the Director, all assistants and employees. No Commissioner shall be eligible for employment as Director or otherwise.

Added by State Question no. 374, Referendum Petition No. 115, adopted at election held on July 3, 1956.

#### SECTION XXVI-4

Disposition of funds.

The fees, monies, or funds arising from the operation and transactions of said Commission and from the application and the administration of the laws and regulations pertaining to the bird, fish, game and wildlife resources of the State and from the sale of property used for said purposes shall be expended and used by said Commission for the control, management, restoration, conservation and regulation of the bird, fish, game and wildlife resources of the State, including the purchase or other acquisition of property for said purposes, and for the administration of the laws pertaining thereto and for no other purpose.

Added by State Question No. 374, Referendum Petition No. 115, adopted at election held on July 3, 1956.