

Committee Action:  
Do Pass \_\_\_\_\_  
Amend & Do Pass \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

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**Senate Committee on Natural Resources**

This measure may be considered for action during today's work session.

**SENATE BILL 78**

**Revises the membership of the Board of Wildlife Commissioners. (BDR 45-107)**

**Sponsored By:** Senator Goicoechea  
**Date Heard:** March 9, 2021  
**Fiscal Notes:** Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: Yes.

Senate Bill 78 expands the membership of the Board of Wildlife Commissioners from 9 to 11 members by adding a member who is licensed as a master guide and a member who is an elected officer representing the governing body of a local political subdivision. The measure increases from 1 to 2 the number of members who may be from the same county whose population is less than 100,000 (currently all counties other than Clark and Washoe Counties).

**Amendments:** The Senate Committee on Natural Resources proposes the attached amendment to:

1. Remove the changes currently proposed in sections 1 and 2 of SB 78;
2. Require one of the five members of the Board of Wildlife Commissioners who holds a fishing or hunting license, or both, to be a master guide;
3. Provide that a member of the Commission serves for a term of 3 years and that a member can serve for a total of 4 terms (term limit); and
4. Provide that a member shall continue to serve on the Board until he or she is reappointed by the Governor or until a qualified person has been appointed by the Governor as a successor, whichever applies.

**Proposed Amendment for S.B. 78**  
**(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources)**  
March 15, 2021

**Explanation of the Proposed Changes**

This amendment seeks to amend S.B. 78 in the following manner:

1. Remove the changes currently proposed in sections 1 and 2 of S.B. 78;
2. Require one of the five members of the Board of Wildlife Commissioners who holds a fishing or hunting license, or both, to be a master guide;
3. Provide that a member of the Commission serves for a term of 3 years and that a member can serve for a total of 4 terms; and
4. Provide that a member shall continue to serve on the Board until he or she is reappointed by the Governor or until a qualified person has been appointed by the Governor as a successor, whichever applies.

This amendment proposed to add a transitory provision that requires the Governor to appoint the nine members of the Commission on July 1, 2022, to staggered terms.

**Proposed Changes**

**Section 1.** NRS 501.167 is hereby amended to read as follows:

501.167 The Board of Wildlife Commissioners, consisting of **nine** ~~four~~ members appointed by the Governor, is hereby created.

**Sec. 2.** NRS 501.171 is hereby amended to read as follows:

501.171 1. A county advisory board to manage wildlife shall submit written nominations for appointments to the Commission upon the request of the Governor and may submit nominations at any other time.

2. After consideration of the written nominations submitted by a county advisory board to manage wildlife and any additional candidates for appointment to the Commission, the Governor shall appoint to the Commission:

(a) One member who is actively engaged in and possesses experience and expertise in advocating issues relating to conservation;

(b) One member who is actively engaged in farming;

(c) One member who is actively engaged in ranching;

~~(d) One member who is licensed as a master guide pursuant to NRS 504.390;~~

~~(e) One member who is an elected officer representing the governing body of a local political subdivision;~~

~~(f)~~ One member who represents the interests of the general public; and

**(e) ~~(g)~~ Five members who during at least 3 of the 4 years immediately preceding their appointment held a resident license to fish or hunt, or both, in Nevada ~~four~~, at least one of whom is licensed as a master guide pursuant to NRS 504.390.**

3. The Governor shall not appoint to the Commission any person who has been convicted of:

(a) A felony or gross misdemeanor for a violation of NRS 501.376;

(b) A gross misdemeanor for a violation of NRS 502.060;

(c) A felony or gross misdemeanor for a violation of NRS 504.395; or

(d) Two or more violations of the provisions of chapters 501 to 504, inclusive, of NRS,

↪ during the previous 10 years.

4. Not more than three members may be from the same county whose population is 700,000 or more, not more than two members may be from the same county whose population is 100,000 or more but

less than 700,000, and not more than one member ~~two members~~ may be from the same county whose population is less than 100,000.

5. Each member of the Commission serves for a term of 3 years and may be reappointed. Any vacancy shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired term. A member shall not serve more than 4 terms.

6. Upon the expiration of a term, the member shall continue to serve on the Commission until the member is reappointed by the Governor or until a qualified person has been appointed by the Governor as a successor, whichever is applicable.

7. The Commission shall annually select a Chair and a Vice Chair from among its members. A person shall not serve more than two consecutive terms as Chair.

**Sec. 3.** NRS 501.177 is hereby amended to read as follows:

501.177 1. The Commission may hold not more than nine meetings regularly each year based on need and the requests submitted by the county advisory boards to manage wildlife.

2. Special meetings of the Commission may be held at such times and places as the Commission deems proper.

3. ~~Five~~ *A majority of the* members of the Commission ~~constitute~~ *constitutes* a quorum for the transaction of any business which may come before the Commission.

**Sec. 4 1.** The terms of the members of the Board of Wildlife Commissioners created by NRS 501.167 who are incumbent on June 30, 2022, expire on that date.

2. On for before July 1, 2022, the Governor shall, pursuant to NRS 501.171, as amended by section 2 of this act, appoint the members of the State Board of Wildlife Commissioners created by NRS 501.167 to terms commencing on July 1, 2022, as follows:

(a) Three members to terms that expire on July 1, 2023;

(b) Three members to terms that expire on July 1, 2024; and

(c) Three members to terms that expire on July 1, 2025.

3. The limitation on the number of terms a member may serve on the Board of Wildlife Commissioners set forth in NRS 501.171, as amended by section 2 of this act, applies only to a term of office which commences on or after July 1, 2022.