May 09, 2024, Introduced by Reps. Martin, Prestin, Markkanen, Cavitt, Jaime Greene and Alexander and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation.


THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

Sec. 501. (1) A department of natural resources for this state is created, which shall possess the powers and shall perform the duties granted and imposed by this act and as otherwise provided by law.

(2) The commission of natural resources is created as the head
of the department of natural resources and may establish general
policies related to natural resources management and environmental
protection for the guidance of the director. In addition, the
commission has appellate authority as provided in section 1101. The
commission shall be composed of 7 members, not subject to the
following:

(a) No more than 4 of whom members may be members of the
same political party, appointed by the

(b) The governor shall appoint each member with the
advice and consent of the senate.

(c) A member of the commission shall be selected with
special reference to that person's training and
experience related to at least 1 of the principal lines of
activities vested in the department of natural resources and the
ability and fitness of that person to deal with those
activities.

(d) The term of office of each member of the commission shall
be 4 years.

(e) The governor shall fill a vacancy occurring in the
membership of the commission and may remove a member of the
commission for cause after a hearing.

(f) Each member of the commission shall hold office until the
appointment and qualification of that member's successor.

(3) The commission, within 30 days after having qualified and
annually after that time, shall meet at its office in Lansing and
organize by appointing a secretary, who need not be a member of the
commission. The governor shall appoint a chairperson of the
commission from among its members, who shall serve as chairperson
at the pleasure of the governor. Four members of the commission
constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The business which the commission may perform shall be conducted at a public meeting of the commission held in compliance with the open meetings act, Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of 1976, being sections 15.261 to 15.275 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275. Public notice of the time, date, and place of the meeting shall be given in the manner required by Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of 1976, the open meetings act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275. A meeting may be called by the chairperson and shall be called on request of a majority of the members of the commission. The commission may hold a meeting may be held as often as necessary and at other places than the commissioners' offices in Lansing. The commission shall meet at least once each month. The commission shall conduct the commission's meetings with video conferencing in a manner that permits 2-way communication so that public participants can hear members of the commission and can be heard by members of the commission and other participants during a public comment period.

(4) The commission shall appoint and employ a director who shall continue in office at the pleasure of the commission. The director shall appoint 1 or more deputy directors and other assistants and employees as are necessary to implement this part and any other law of this state affecting the powers and duties of the department of natural resources. A person to whom the director has lawfully delegated decision making authority in writing may perform a duty or exercise a power conferred by law upon the department at the time and to the extent the duty and power is delegated to that person by the director. When a vacancy in the office of director occurs, or the director is unable to perform the
director's duties or is absent from the this state, the powers and
duties of the director as prescribed by law shall must be imposed
on and transferred to a deputy director until the vacancy is filled
or the director's inability or absence from the this state ceases.

(5) The compensation of the deputy directors, the assistants,
and the employees and the number of assistants and employees shall
be are subject to the approval of the state administrative board.
The members of the commission shall not receive compensation under
this part, but each member and the other officers and employees of
the department of natural resources shall be are entitled to
reasonable expenses while traveling in the performance of their
duties prescribed by this act. The salaries and expenses authorized
under this act shall must be paid out of the state treasury in the
same manner as the salaries of other state officers and employees
are paid. The department of technology, management, and budget
shall furnish suitable offices and office equipment, at in Lansing,
for the use of the department of natural resources. Each member of
the commission and the director shall qualify by taking and
subscribing to the constitutional oath of office prescribed in
section 1 of article XI of the state constitution of 1963 and by
filing it the oath in the office of the secretary of state.