

HOUSE BILL 766

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By: **Delegates Otto, Arentz, Arian, Beauchamp, Chisholm, Fisher, Hartman, Hutchinson, Jacobs, M. Morgan, T. Morgan, Nawrocki, Pippy, Rose, Szeliga, Valentine, and Wivell**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Wildlife Advisory Commission – Membership – Alterations**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that the Wildlife Advisory Commission member appointed to
4 represent the farming community be selected from a list of candidates provided by
5 the Maryland Farm Bureau; and generally relating to the Wildlife Advisory
6 Commission.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Natural Resources
9 Section 1–102(c)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – Natural Resources**

15 1–102.

16 (c) (1) Unless otherwise provided by this article, each advisory commission
17 created by law consists of five members appointed by the Governor, with the advice of the
18 Secretary, to serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

19 (2) (i) 1. Subject to subparagraph 2 of this subparagraph, the
20 Wildlife Advisory Commission is composed of 10 members appointed by the Governor.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



2. The Governor shall appoint one member who is an academic researcher with expertise in wildlife biology, wildlife conservation, wildlife management, or ecology.

(ii) 1. **[The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSUBPARAGRAPH 2 OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, THE** Governor shall solicit nominations for vacancies on the Wildlife Advisory Commission from individuals or organizations that promote the future of hunting and individuals or organizations that promote the preservation of wildlife in the State, with geographical distribution being a prime consideration for filling vacancies.

2. There shall be representation from:

A. The farming community, **SELECTED FROM A LIST OF CANDIDATES PROVIDED BY THE MARYLAND FARM BUREAU;**

B. The hunting community;

C. The wildlife preservation community; and

D. The passive wildlife recreation community.

(iii) The term of a member is 4 years.

(iv) A member may not serve more than 2 terms on the Commission.

(v) The terms of members are staggered so that:

1. 3 shall end in 2023;

2. 3 shall end in 2024;

3. 3 shall end in 2025; and

4. 1 shall end in 2028.

(vi) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

(vii) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

(3) A member shall be knowledgeable in the area of interest of the advisory commission on which he serves.

(4) Each advisory commission shall advise the Secretary or the administration of the appropriate Department unit, pursuant to rules and regulations the Secretary adopts.

1 (5) The members of each advisory commission annually shall elect a
2 chairman of the commission and may adopt procedures to conduct its meetings.

3 (6) An advisory commission member receives the compensation provided
4 in the Department budget. Every member shall be reimbursed for necessary travel
5 expenses incurred in performing any official duty, pursuant to rules and regulations the
6 Secretary adopts.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
8 October 1, 2025.