

By: Swinford

H.B. No. 5

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the composition of the Parks and Wildlife Commission.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 11.012(d), Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) In making appointments under this section, the governor:

(1) shall:

(A) attempt to include persons with expertise in diverse fields, including fields such as historic preservation, conservation, and outdoor recreation; and

(B) consider the commission's composition in terms of:

(i) the geographical areas represented by members of the commission; and

(ii) the appropriate balance of representatives from rural and urban areas; and

(2) may include persons who have an interest in and knowledge of hunting, fishing, wildlife, environmental concerns, land or water use issues, or water quality issues.

SECTION 2. (a) As soon as possible on or after December 1, 2003, the governor shall appoint nine members to the Parks and Wildlife Commission under Section 11.012, Parks and Wildlife Code, as amended by this Act. The governor shall designate:

1           (1) three members, including one public member, for  
2 terms expiring February 1, 2005;

3           (2) three members, including one public member, for  
4 terms expiring February 1, 2007; and

5           (3) three members, including one public member, for  
6 terms expiring February 1, 2009.

7           (b) The governor may reappoint a person who served as a  
8 member of the Parks and Wildlife Commission before December 1,  
9 2003.

10          (c) The position of a member of the Parks and Wildlife  
11 Commission serving immediately before December 1, 2003, is  
12 abolished at the time five or more of the newly appointed directors  
13 qualify for office. Until the abolition of the members' positions  
14 occurs under this section, the members serving immediately before  
15 December 1, 2003, have the same powers and duties that the members  
16 had immediately before that date and the commission continues to be  
17 composed in the way it was composed before that date, and the former  
18 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

19          SECTION 3. This Act takes effect December 1, 2003.