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HOUSE BILL NO. 204

Offered January 13, 2016

Prefiled December 28, 2015

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 28.2-102 of the Code of Virginia, relating to membership of the Marine Resources Commission.*

Patrons—Miyares and Taylor; Senator: Wagner

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 28.2-102 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 28.2-102. Commission membership; chairman; qualifications; terms; meetings.

A. The Commission shall consist of a chairman and ~~eight~~ *nine* additional members who, to the extent possible, shall be representative of all areas of interest in Virginia's marine resources, including commercial, recreational, and environmental interests. At least one member shall, at the time of his appointment, have earned his livelihood for at least five years by working on Virginia waters and shall be licensed and registered as a commercial fisherman as defined in § 28.2-241, ~~and at least one member shall be a representative of the sport fishing industry or a recreational fisherman who is not employed by the commercial fishing industry, and at least one member shall be a landowner and recreational user of the water whose property abuts the waters in the City of Virginia Beach.~~ The members, including the chairman, shall be appointed by the Governor and shall serve at his pleasure.

B. The chairman and two members of the Commission shall hold office for terms coincident with the term of the Governor making the appointments, or until their successors have been appointed and qualified. ~~The terms of the remaining six members shall expire July 1, 1997, and these same six members shall be reappointed effective July 1, 1997, as successors. Their terms shall be as follows: two members shall be appointed for two-year terms, two members shall be appointed for three-year terms, and two members shall be appointed for four-year terms or until their successors are appointed and qualified. Thereafter, all appointments~~ *Appointments* shall be for terms of four years or until their successors are appointed and qualified. No person, except the chairman, shall serve more than two consecutive four-year terms. Any vacancy shall be filled by the Governor for the unexpired term. ~~The remainder of any term to which a member is appointed to fill a vacancy shall not constitute a term in determining the member's eligibility for reappointment.~~

C. The chairman shall be an experienced administrator with knowledge of seafood and marine affairs. He shall serve as Commissioner of Marine Resources.

D. ~~Five~~ *Six* members shall constitute a quorum of the Commission.

E. The Commission shall meet on the call of the chairman or three members at such times as he or they may deem necessary, and at such places as he or they may designate.

INTRODUCED

HB204