

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

A Bill

SENATE BILL 362

By: Senators Hester, B. Davis
By: Representative McCollum

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING CERTAIN COMMISSIONS; TO AMEND THE LAW REGARDING THE STATE PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAVEL COMMISSION; TO AMEND THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE STATE PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAVEL COMMISSION; TO AMEND THE CALLING OF MEETINGS OF AND A QUORUM FOR THE STATE PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAVEL COMMISSION; TO ELIMINATE COMMISSIONER EMERITUS POSITIONS; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER PARKWAY COMMISSION OF ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE MEMBERSHIP AND THE CALLING OF MEETINGS OF AND A QUORUM FOR THE STATE PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAVEL COMMISSION; TO ELIMINATE COMMISSIONER EMERITUS POSITIONS; AND TO AMEND THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER PARKWAY COMMISSION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 15-11-202(a), concerning the makeup of the State Parks, Recreation, and Travel Commission, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The State Parks, Recreation, and Travel Commission shall consist of fifteen (15) regular members, of whom at least:



(1) ~~Four (4) are~~ One (1) is active in media, including without limitation newspaper, television, radio, ~~Internet~~ internet, or the video service provider industry;

(2) Seven (7) have primary occupations in tourism, including without limitation:

(A) Persons having occupations in the recreational or travel field of endeavor; and

(B) Owners or operators of food service, lodging, or travel-oriented businesses such as boat docks, marinas, theme parks, camp grounds, tourist resorts, caves, caverns, highway gift shops, and firms commonly known as tourist attractions;

~~(3) One (1) is a historian with knowledge of Arkansas's historic background~~ Five (5) are from the public at large;

(4) One (1) is a representative of either employment or avocation in recreation and conservation; and

~~(5) One (1) is a representative of either employment or avocation in arts and culture; and~~

~~(6)~~ One (1) is sixty (60) years of age or older, serving as a representative of the elderly who shall not be actively engaged in or retired from the professions set out in subdivisions (a)(1)-~~(5)~~, (2), and (4) of this section.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 15-11-202(b), concerning the members of the State Parks, Recreation, and Travel Commission, is repealed.

~~(b) In addition to the membership under subsection (a) of this section, the membership of the commission may include one (1) or more commissioners emeriti if designated under § 15-11-203.~~

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 15-11-203 is repealed.

~~15-11-203. Commissioner emeritus.~~

~~(a) A person shall be known and designated as a "commissioner emeritus" if he or she:~~

~~(1) Has served for at least twenty-four (24) years as a member of the State Parks, Recreation, and Travel Commission, as established by §§ 15-11-201, 15-11-202, and 15-11-204—15-11-207, or its predecessor commissions; and~~

~~(2) Was known and designated as a "commissioner emeritus" under this section on or before July 22, 2015.~~

~~(b) A commissioner emeritus shall serve as a member of the commission for the remainder of his or her life, shall be notified of all commission meetings, and is entitled to the same expenses and other allowances for attending commission meetings as is provided by law for other commission members.~~

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 15-11-204(d) and (e), concerning the calling of meetings of and a quorum for the State Parks, Recreation, and Travel Commission, are amended to read as follows:

(d) Meetings shall be at the call of the Chair of the State Parks, Recreation, and Travel Commission either at his or her own instance or upon the written request of ~~at least seven (7)~~ a majority of members.

~~(e) A quorum shall consist of not fewer than seven (7) members present at any regular or special meeting. A majority affirmative vote of that number shall be necessary for the disposition of any business.~~

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 27-69-202(b), concerning the members of the Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Arkansas, is repealed.

~~(b)(1) Any person who has served, is now serving, or serves in the future as a member of the Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Arkansas, as established by this subchapter, who has served or serves twenty (20) years as a member of the Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Arkansas, and as pilot or president of the Mississippi River Parkway Commission, shall, from and after February 3, 1983, be known and designated as a "commissioner emeritus".~~

~~(2) A commissioner emeritus shall serve as a member of the Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Arkansas for the remainder of his or her life and shall be notified of all Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Arkansas meetings and is entitled to the same expenses and other allowances for attending Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Arkansas meetings as is provided by law for other Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Arkansas members.~~

~~(3) The Governor of the State of Arkansas shall cause an appropriate commission to be prepared and issued to each commissioner~~

~~emeritus of the Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Arkansas, who shall file it with the Secretary of State and take the official oath of office before entering upon his or her duties as a commissioner emeritus of the Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Arkansas.~~

SECTION 6. DO NOT CODIFY. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. This act shall not shorten the term of any current member of the State Parks, Recreation, and Travel Commission but shall be implemented as terms expire and by filling vacancies on the commission.