

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2399

To establish the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council Advisory Committee to advise the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture on wildlife and habitat conservation, hunting, recreational shooting, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 18, 2015

Mr. LATTA (for himself, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. HANNA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council Advisory Committee to advise the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture on wildlife and habitat conservation, hunting, recreational shooting, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Wildlife and Hunting
5 Heritage Conservation Council Advisory Committee Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. WILDLIFE AND HUNTING HERITAGE CONSERVA-**
2 **TION COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Fish and Wildlife Coordina-
4 tion Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) is amended by adding
5 at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 10. WILDLIFE AND HUNTING HERITAGE CONSERVA-**
7 **TION COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established
9 the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council
10 Advisory Committee (in this section referred to as the ‘Ad-
11 visory Committee’) to advise the Secretaries of the Interior
12 and Agriculture on wildlife and habitat conservation,
13 hunting, and recreational shooting.

14 “(b) DUTIES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The
15 Advisory Committee shall advise the Secretaries with re-
16 gard to—

17 “(1) implementation of Executive Order No.
18 13443: Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wild-
19 life Conservation, which directs Federal agencies ‘to
20 facilitate the expansion and enhancement of hunting
21 opportunities and the management of game species
22 and their habitat’;

23 “(2) policies or programs to conserve and re-
24 store wetlands, agricultural lands, grasslands, forest,
25 and rangeland habitats;

1 “(3) policies or programs to promote opportuni-
2 ties and access to hunting and shooting sports on
3 Federal lands;

4 “(4) policies or programs to recruit and retain
5 new hunters and shooters;

6 “(5) policies or programs that increase public
7 awareness of the importance of wildlife conservation
8 and the social and economic benefits of recreational
9 hunting and shooting; and

10 “(6) policies or programs that encourage co-
11 ordination among the public, the hunting and shoot-
12 ing sports community, wildlife conservation groups,
13 and States, tribes, and the Federal Government.

14 “(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

15 “(1) APPOINTMENT.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Com-
17 mittee shall consist of no more than 16 discre-
18 tionary members and 7 ex officio members.

19 “(B) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The ex offi-
20 cio members are—

21 “(i) the Director of the United States
22 Fish and Wildlife Service or a designated
23 representative of the Director;

1 “(ii) the Director of the Bureau of
2 Land Management or a designated rep-
3 resentative of the Director;

4 “(iii) the Director of the National
5 Park Service or a designated representa-
6 tive of the Director;

7 “(iv) the Chief of the Forest Service
8 or a designated representative of the Chief;

9 “(v) the Chief of the Natural Re-
10 sources Conservation Service or a des-
11 ignated representative of the Chief;

12 “(vi) the Administrator of the Farm
13 Service Agency or a designated representa-
14 tive of the Administrator; and

15 “(vii) the Executive Director of the
16 Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

17 “(C) DISCRETIONARY MEMBERS.—The dis-
18 cretionary members shall be appointed jointly
19 by the Secretaries from at least one of each of
20 the following:

21 “(i) State fish and wildlife agencies.

22 “(ii) Game bird hunting organiza-
23 tions.

24 “(iii) Wildlife conservation organiza-
25 tions.

1 “(iv) Big game hunting organizations.

2 “(v) The tourism, outfitter, or guiding
3 industry.

4 “(vi) The firearms or ammunition
5 manufacturing industry.

6 “(vii) The hunting or shooting equip-
7 ment retail industry.

8 “(viii) Tribal resource management
9 organizations.

10 “(ix) The agriculture industry.

11 “(x) The ranching industry.

12 “(xi) Waterfowl hunting organiza-
13 tions.

14 “(D) ELIGIBILITY.—Prior to the appoint-
15 ment of the discretionary members, the Secre-
16 taries shall determine that all individuals nomi-
17 nated for appointment to the Advisory Com-
18 mittee, and the organization each individual
19 represents, actively support and promote sus-
20 tainable-use hunting, wildlife conservation, and
21 recreational shooting.

22 “(2) TERMS.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
24 subparagraph (B), members of the Advisory
25 Committee shall be appointed for a term of 4

1 years. Members shall not be appointed for more
2 than 3 consecutive or nonconsecutive terms.

3 “(B) TERMS OF INITIAL APPOINTEES.—As
4 designated by the Secretary at the time of ap-
5 pointment, of the members first appointed—

6 “(i) 6 members shall be appointed for
7 a term of 4 years;

8 “(ii) 5 members shall be appointed for
9 a term of 3 years; and

10 “(iii) 5 members shall be appointed
11 for a term of 2 years.

12 “(3) PRESERVATION OF PUBLIC ADVISORY STA-
13 TUS.—No individual may be appointed as a discre-
14 tionary member of the Advisory Committee while
15 serving as an officer or employee of the Federal
16 Government.

17 “(4) VACANCY AND REMOVAL.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Any vacancy on the
19 Advisory Committee shall be filled in the man-
20 ner in which the original appointment was
21 made.

22 “(B) REMOVAL.—Advisory Committee
23 members shall serve at the discretion of the
24 Secretaries and may be removed at any time for
25 good cause.

1 “(5) CONTINUATION OF SERVICE.—Each ap-
2 pointed member may continue to serve after the ex-
3 piration of the term of office to which such member
4 was appointed until a successor has been appointed.

5 “(6) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the
6 Advisory Committee shall be appointed for a 3-year
7 term by the Secretaries, jointly, from among the
8 members of the Advisory Committee. An individual
9 may not be appointed as Chairperson for more than
10 2 consecutive or nonconsecutive terms.

11 “(7) PAY AND EXPENSES.—Members of the Ad-
12 visory Committee shall serve without pay for such
13 service, but each member of the Advisory Committee
14 may be reimbursed for travel and lodging incurred
15 through attending meetings of the Advisory Com-
16 mittee approved subgroup meetings in the same
17 amounts and under the same conditions as Federal
18 employees (in accordance with section 5703 of title
19 5, United States Code).

20 “(8) MEETINGS.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Com-
22 mittee shall meet at the call of the Secretaries,
23 the chairperson, or a majority of the members,
24 but not less frequently than twice annually.

1 “(B) OPEN MEETINGS.—Each meeting of
2 the Advisory Committee shall be open to the
3 public.

4 “(C) PRIOR NOTICE OF MEETINGS.—Time-
5 ly notice of each meeting of the Advisory Com-
6 mittee shall be published in the Federal Reg-
7 ister and be submitted to trade publications and
8 publications of general circulation.

9 “(D) SUBGROUPS.—The Advisory Com-
10 mittee may establish such workgroups or sub-
11 groups as it deems necessary for the purpose of
12 compiling information or conducting research.
13 However, such workgroups may not conduct
14 business without the direction of the Advisory
15 Committee and must report in full to the Advi-
16 sory Committee.

17 “(9) QUORUM.—Nine members of the Advisory
18 Committee shall constitute a quorum.

19 “(d) EXPENSES.—The expenses of the Advisory
20 Committee that the Secretaries determine to be reasonable
21 and appropriate shall be paid by the Secretaries.

22 “(e) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERV-
23 ICES, AND ADVICE.—A designated Federal Officer shall
24 be jointly appointed by the Secretaries to provide to the
25 Advisory Committee the administrative support, technical

1 services, and advice that the Secretaries determine to be
2 reasonable and appropriate.

3 “(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—

4 “(1) REQUIRED.—Not later than September 30
5 of each year, the Advisory Committee shall submit
6 a report to the Secretaries, the Committee on Nat-
7 ural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture of
8 the House of Representatives, and the Committee on
9 Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee
10 on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-
11 ate. If circumstances arise in which the Advisory
12 Committee cannot meet the September 30 deadline
13 in any year, the Secretaries shall advise the Chair-
14 persons of each such Committee of the reasons for
15 such delay and the date on which the submission of
16 the report is anticipated.

17 “(2) CONTENTS.—The report required by para-
18 graph (1) shall describe—

19 “(A) the activities of the Advisory Com-
20 mittee during the preceding year;

21 “(B) the reports and recommendations
22 made by the Advisory Committee to the Secre-
23 taries during the preceding year; and

24 “(C) an accounting of actions taken by the
25 Secretaries as a result of the recommendations.

1 “(g) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The
2 Advisory Committee shall be exempt from the Federal Ad-
3 visory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).”.

4 (b) CONTINUANCE AND ABOLISHMENT OF EXISTING
5 WILDLIFE AND HUNTING HERITAGE CONSERVATION
6 COUNCIL.—The Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conserva-
7 tion Council established pursuant to section 441 of the
8 Revised Statutes (43 U.S.C. 1457), section 2 of the Fish
9 and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a), and other Acts
10 applicable to specific bureaus of the Department of the
11 Interior—

12 (1) shall continue until the date of the first
13 meeting of the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Con-
14 servation Council established by the amendment
15 made by subsection (a); and

16 (2) is hereby abolished effective on that date.

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