

SENATE, No. 471

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2026 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator BRIAN P. STACK

District 33 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Revises Fish and Game Council membership.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning the membership of the Fish and Game Council
2 and amending P.L.1948, c.448.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. Section 26 of P.L.1948, c.448 (C.13:1B-24) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 There shall be within the Division of Fish **[, Game]** and Wildlife,
10 a Fish and Game Council which shall consist of 11 members, each
11 of whom shall be chosen with due regard to his knowledge of and
12 interest in the conservation of fish and game. Each member of the
13 council shall be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and
14 consent of the Senate. Three of **[such]** the members shall be
15 farmers, recommended to the Governor for appointment to the
16 council by the agricultural convention held pursuant to the
17 provisions of article 2 of chapter 1 of Title 4 of the Revised
18 Statutes; **[six of such members shall be sportsmen, recommended**
19 **to the Governor for appointment to the council by the New Jersey**
20 **State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs;]** three of [such] the
21 members shall be sportsmen, recommended to the Governor for
22 appointment to the council by the New Jersey State Federation of
23 Sportsmen's Clubs or its successor organization; three of [such] the
24 members shall be individuals recommended to the Governor for
25 appointment to the council by animal welfare organizations in this
26 State; one of [such] the members shall be the chairman of the
27 committee established pursuant to section 7 of the "Endangered and
28 Nongame Species Conservation Act" (P.L.1973, c. 309; C. 23:2A-
29 7)**[.]**; and one of such members shall be a person knowledgeable in
30 land use management and soil conservation practices. One of
31 **[such]** the farmer representatives **[and two],** one of [such] the
32 sportsmen representatives, and one of such animal welfare
33 representatives in the council shall be chosen from among residents
34 of any of the following counties--Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris,
35 Passaic, Sussex and Warren; one of **[such]** the farmer
36 representatives **[and two],** one of [such] the sportsmen
37 representatives, and one of such animal welfare representatives in
38 the council shall be chosen from among residents of any of the
39 following counties--Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth,
40 Ocean, Somerset and Union; and one of **[such]** the farmer
41 representatives **[and two],** one of [such] the sportsmen
42 representatives, and one of [such] the animal welfare
43 representatives shall be chosen from among residents of any of the

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 following counties--Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May,
2 Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem.

3 For the purposes of this section, “animal welfare organization”
4 means a not-for-profit organization established to promote animal
5 welfare, exempt from federal taxation pursuant to section 501(c)(3)
6 of the federal Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. s.501(c)(3)), and
7 the primary purpose of which is the protection, care, humane
8 treatment or advocacy of animals.

9 Each member of the council shall be appointed for a term of **[4]**
10 four years and shall serve until his successor has been appointed
11 and has qualified.

12 (cf: P.L.1979, c.199, s.72)

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14 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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17 STATEMENT

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19 This bill revises the membership of the Fish and Game Council
20 in the Division of Fish and Wildlife without changing the council’s
21 size of 11 members. Under current law, three members are farmers
22 recommended by the State agricultural convention, six members are
23 sportsmen recommended by the New Jersey State Federation of
24 Sportsmen’s Clubs, one member is the chair of the Endangered and
25 Nongame Species Advisory Committee, and one member is an
26 individual who is knowledgeable in land-use management and soil
27 conservation practices.

28 The bill replaces three of the six sportsmen representative seats
29 with three seats for individuals recommended by animal welfare
30 organizations in this State, resulting in three sportsmen
31 representatives and three animal-welfare representatives