

SB 347

**An Act Requiring Senate Confirmation of Appointees to the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission
To
The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**By Brad Loveless, Secretary
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks**

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The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) stands in opposition of the bill.

SB 347 would require Senate confirmation of appointees to the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission. Under existing law, one Kansas resident is appointed by the Governor from each fish and wildlife administration region to fill a four (4)-year term. A maximum of four (4) individuals out of seven (7) member commission may be appointed from the same political party. Under the existing gubernatorial appointment process, a vacancy can be speedily filled.

In addition to other secondary functions the Commission traditionally performs, its main purpose is to solicit public input during the regulatory promulgation process. Based upon public feedback, proposed regulations may be amended, accepted, or rejected. However, the administrative functions of KDWP are not overseen by the Commission. Nor does the KDWP Secretary, being a cabinet level position, answer to the Commission.

The Commission is therefore different than other boards or commissions that currently require Kansas Senate Confirmation (listed **below**). Further, these Senate-confirmed boards oversee agency budgets and/or personnel, such as an executive assistant who reports directly to it. Whereas KDWP is overseen by a secretary, which is already confirmed by the Senate and answers to the Governor.

Boards & Commissions Requiring Senate Confirmation

Below are the boards and commissions that currently require Kansas Senate confirmation:

- Employment Security Board of Review
- Board of Tax Appeals
- KS Board of Regents
- KS Corporation Commission
- KS Development Finance Authority
- KS Human Rights Commission
- KS Lottery Commission

- KPERS Board of Trustees
- Pooled Money Investment Board
- Public Employee Relations Board
- Racing and Gaming Commission
- State Banking Board
- State Board of Indigent Defense Services
- State Civil Service Board
- KU Hospital Authority Board of Directors