

Referendum Measure No. 26

BALLOT TITLE

AN ACT relating to game and the State Game Commission; providing that members of the State Game Commission shall, for the purpose of making such commission responsible to the Governor, be appointed and removable by him; amending Section 107B, Chapter 7, Laws of 1921, as enacted by Section 8, Chapter 3, Laws of 1933; and repealing Section 107C, Chapter 7, Laws of 1921, as enacted by Section 9, Chapter 3, Laws of 1933.

CHAPTER 37, LAWS OF 1945

[S. B. 57.]

STATE GAME COMMISSION

AN ACT relating to game and the appointment of a State Game Commission, and amending Pierce's Perpetual Code 235-3, section 107B, chapter 7, Laws of 1921, as enacted by section 8, chapter 3, Laws of 1933; and repealing Pierce's Perpetual Code 235-5, section 107C, chapter 7, Laws of 1921, as enacted by section 9, chapter 3, Laws of 1933, and declaring an emergency.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. Pierce's Perpetual Code 235-3, section 107B, chapter 7, Laws of 1921, as enacted by section 8, chapter 3, Laws of 1933, is amended to read as follows:

Section 107B. The Governor shall have the power and it shall be his duty to appoint a State Game Commission, which shall consist of six electors of the state, who shall be appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate and hold office

at the pleasure of the Governor, at least three of whom shall be residents of that portion of the state lying east of the summit of the Cascade Mountains, and at least three of whom shall be residents of that portion of the state lying west of the summit of the Cascade Mountains, no two of whom shall be residents of the same county.

SEC. 2. Pierce's Perpetual Code 235-5, section 107C, chapter 7, Laws of 1921, as enacted by section 9, chapter 3, Laws of 1933, is hereby repealed.

SEC. 3. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety and for the immediate support of the state government and its existing public institutions and shall take effect immediately.

Passed the Senate February 26, 1945.

Passed the House March 5, 1945.

Approved by the Governor March 14, 1945.

STATE OF WASHINGTON—ss.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State April 3, 1945.

BELLE REEVES,
Secretary of State.

ARGUMENT AGAINST REFERENDUM NO. 26

A vote "Against" Referendum No. 26 will keep the State Game Department and its constructive policies as far removed as possible from becoming ham-strung by destructive and ill-advised partisan politics with each change in the Governor's office. A vote "Against" it will insure the continuation of a constructive, long range fish and game program in the State of Washington.

Our present Game Code was enacted by popular vote of the people in 1932. It provides for the game and game fish affairs of the state to be managed by a Game Commission of six members whose staggered terms of office are six years each. Two are appointed every two years, thereby guaranteeing the continuance of four experienced commissioners with each new appointment or change of Governors.

This present Game Code has served well, so well, that it has been pronounced by the present Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as "one of the three best in the United States—and none are better." Through its sound non-partisan and non-political foundation, excellent progress has been made under three Governors of two different political parties (Martin, Langlie and Wallgren). So why change? The desire for a change was motivated by the expediency of political patronage at the 1945 Legislature—and not by a public or popular demand.

The history of all successful game management programs and of the outstanding game states in the Nation is that game programs and partisan politics definitely don't mix. If Referendum No. 26 is enacted into law, your Game Department will become mired in partisan politics to the hilt. So vote "Against" it.

Defeat of Referendum No. 26 will not only mean the retention of capable personnel with long years of service in the Game Department, but it will also protect the new appointees in the Department who are qualified for their jobs.

Its passage means that with each change in the Governor's office, the full membership of the entire commission will be subject to political ouster, and consequently, the operating personnel in the Department to

political turmoil for months before and after each election. For, under the terms of the law enacted by the Legislature, the Commissioners are removable at the pleasure of the Governor, which in turn means the Game Director and every employee in the Department if they didn't support the right candidate for Governor. Surely any person who wants good government can't go for this.

No Governor needs the authority clothed in this bill to make the Game Commission responsible to him. Under the present Game Code and laws of the state it is already responsible to him, despite all assertions to the contrary. All expenditures authorized by the Commission must now be approved by the Governor in addition to being appropriated by the Legislature and checked by the State Auditor. The Commission must also make a biennial report to the Governor, and each member is subject to removal at the Governor's will for inefficiency or other cause, provided a public hearing is held on the charges—but the Governor is the sole judge. What more could a Governor want, except perhaps total political domination of the personnel of the entire Department and the patronage that would go with such a system?

The people adopted the present Game Code at the request of the sportsmen. The well informed organized sportsmen want it left alone. Who is in a better position to judge the merits of a basic game foundation than the sportsmen themselves? Follow the sportsmen's recommendations and vote "Against" Referendum No. 26.

The Washington State Sportsmen's Council, in convention assembled at Spokane on March 25, 1945, went on record without a dissenting vote "Against" Referendum No. 26.

The non-partisan voice of the Washington State Sportsmen's Council is the collective voice of the rank and file fishing and hunting license holders of the State of Washington. They urge the defeat of Referendum No. 26 so that Washington's basically sound Game Code may continue to operate free from the domination of partisan politics—and so that the State Game Department will not be-

Argument Against Referendum Measure No. 26

come a political football with each change of administration.

The following sportsmen's organizations and conservation groups comprise the membership of the Council: Grays Harbor Poggie Club, Aberdeen Snohomish Co. Spts. Assn., Arlington Auburn Sportsmen's Club, Auburn East Side Spts. Assn., Bellevue Whatcom Rod & Gun Club, Bellingham

Kitsap Co. Spts. Council, Bremerton Kitsap Co. Spts. Assn., Bremerton Brewster Spts. Assn., Brewster Buckley Gun Club, Buckley Camas-Washougal W. L. League, Camas Cashmere Spts. Assn., Cashmere Lake Chelan Spts. Assn., Chelan Coulee City Spts. Assn., Coulee City Coulee Dam Spts. Assn., Coulee Dam Davenport Spts. Assn., Davenport Columbia Co. Spts. Assn., Dayton Twin City Sportsmen, East Stanwood Snohomish Co. Spts. Assn., Everett Lincoln Izaak Walton League, Govan G. Falls Spts. Club, Granite Falls Hood Canal Spts. Assn., Hoodport Kent Izaak Walton League, Kent Cowlitz Game & Anglers Club, Kelso Leavenworth Spts. Assn., Leavenworth

Cowlitz Valley IWLA, Longview Mansfield Spts. Assn., Mansfield Marysville Spts. Assn., Marysville Wash. Archers Assn., Marysville W. Wash. Spr. Spaniel Club, McKenna Skagit Co. Spts. Assn., Mt. Vernon Skamania Co. R & G Club, North Bonneville

Okanogan Wildlife Council, Okanogan Olympia Steelhead Club, Olympia Oyster Growers Pro. Assn., Olympia Thurston Co. Poggie Club, Olympia Omak Sportsmen's Assn., Omak Oroville Spts. Assn., Oroville Okanogan Co. Game Club, Pateros Pateros Sportsmen's Assn., Pateros Pinehurst Spts. Assn., Pinehurst Port Angeles IWBA, Port Angeles Pt. Angeles Salmon Club, Pt. Angeles Pt. Angeles Stlhd. Club, Pt. Angeles N. Kitsap Spts. Assn., Port Gamble Olympic Rod & Gun Club, Pt. Orchard Whitman Co. Game Pro. Assn., Pullman

Puyallup Valley Sportsmen, Puyallup Renton Fish & Game Club, Renton Ballard Fish & Game Club, Seattle Buccaneers, Seattle FOE No. 1 Rifle & Rev. Club, Seattle Georgetown Rod & Gun Club, Seattle Joint Council of Teamsters Rifle & Revolver Club, Seattle King Co. Sports Council, Seattle Mystic Knights of the Sea, Seattle Northwest Retriever Club, Seattle P. S. Resort Owners Assn., Seattle Salmon Conservation League, Seattle Seattle Chap. Poggie Club, Seattle Seattle Police Ath. Club, Seattle Seattle R. & Pistol Assn., Seattle So. End Seattle Rifle Club, Seattle Steelhead Trout Club, Seattle Trail Blazers, Seattle Wash. Fly Fishing Club, Seattle Wash. Game Bird Club, Seattle Wash. St. Fur Dealers Assn., Seattle West Seattle Spts. Club, Seattle Western Bass Club, Seattle Wildcat Stlhd. Club, Sedro Woolley Snohomish Co. Spts. Assn., Snohomish Soap Lake Rod & Gun Club, Soap Lake

Spokane Co. Spts. Assn., Spokane Sultan Sportsmen's Club, Sultan L. Valley Fishermen Club, Sunnyside Oliver Taxi R. & R. Club, Tacoma Pierce Co. Poggie Club, Tacoma Pierce Co. Sports Council, Tacoma Pierce Co. Spts. Assn., Tacoma Tacoma Chap. IWLA, Tacoma Tacoma Gun Club, Tacoma Tacoma Field Trial Club, Tacoma Tacoma Rifle & Rev. Club, Tacoma Tacoma Sportsmen's Club, Tacoma Tacoma Steelhead Club, Tacoma Tonasket Game Pro. Assn., Tonasket Methow Valley Spts. Assn., Twisp Mt. Adams F. & G. Assn., Underwood Wash. Wildlife League, Vancouver Vashon Sportsmen's Assn., Vashon Waterville Spts. Assn., Waterville Wenatchee Spts. Assn., Wenatchee Bainbridge Isl. Spts. Assn., Winslow Yakima Valley Spts. Assn., Yakima

Vote "Against" Referendum Measure No. 26.

Washington State Sportsmen's Council
By A. John Carlson, President
Ken McLeod, Secretary.

STATE OF WASHINGTON—ss.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State June 25, 1945.

BELLE REEVES,
Secretary of State.