

**Regulations pertinent to removal of advisory committee members for cause,
from Title 5 Chapter 96 of the Alaska Administrative Code**

5 AAC 96.010. Establishment of a local fish and game advisory committee system

There is established a system of local fish and game advisory committees to provide a local forum for the collection and expression of opinions and recommendations on matters relating to the management of fish and wildlife resources.

5 AAC 96.040. Qualifications for members

To qualify for membership on a committee, a candidate must have knowledge of and experience with the fish and wildlife resources and their uses in the area, and have a reputation within the community consistent with the responsibilities of committee membership.

5 AAC 96.060. Uniform rules of operation

(a) Each committee must comply with the uniform rules of operation contained in this section.

(b) **Organization.** Each committee is organized under AS 16.05.260 and is administered by the joint board.

(c) **Responsibilities.** Each committee is responsible for performing the functions described in 5 AAC 96.010 and 5 AAC 96.050 in accordance with provisions of 5 AAC 96 - 5 AAC 99.

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(e) **Membership.**

(1) Each committee must have at least five but not more than 15 members. The joint board will, in its discretion, limit the size of a committee to less than 15 members at the time the committee is established or at committee request. The members must be representative of fish and game user groups in the area served by the committee. To the extent possible, at least three user groups must be represented on each committee, and membership must include representatives from each town or village located in the area that the committee represents. To ensure full representation of an area, the joint board will, in its discretion, assign a seat on the committee to represent a specific user group or specific community.

(2) The joint board will appoint the original five members of each committee. An additional member will be confirmed by the joint board from names submitted to it after a committee election.

(3) Each committee member, and each voting-age resident of the area of committee jurisdiction under 5 AAC 97.005 who attends a committee election, may vote on a nomination for membership. Nominees receiving the most votes are elected. Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, a committee need not establish a quorum to elect a new member. The election for a seat specified in 5 AAC 96.021(c) must take place in the community for which the seat is specified. An undesignated seat may be filled at a regularly scheduled committee meeting if a quorum is present. No committee may refuse membership to a nominee if committee membership is less than the number of members authorized by the joint board.

(4) A committee shall forward election results, and each newly-elected or re-elected member shall forward a new member form, to the appropriate regional office of the division of boards within 14 days after the election. A newly-elected or re-elected member has full voting and office-holding privileges upon election, but is subject to confirmation by the joint board.

(5) A newly-elected or re-elected member loses membership status if he or she fails to submit a new member form within 14 days after the election, or if his or her confirmation is refused by the joint board.

(6) A committee shall begin its duties when the joint board appoints the first five members.

(7) Each advisory committee may appoint two alternates. However, any member of an advisory committee who is the sole representative from a village or town may also appoint an alternate. Each

alternate must meet the qualifications under this chapter. When acting as a member of an advisory committee, an alternate is entitled to the benefits, privileges, and responsibilities of a regular member.

(f) **Terms of Members.** Each committee shall establish the terms of its members so that not more than one-third of the committee members' terms expire in one calendar year. Terms commence on January 1 and expire on December 31 of the year designated or until a successor has been duly elected at the next committee meeting. Maximum length of a term is three years.

(g) **Vacancy.** A committee shall fill a vacancy through nomination and election under (e) of this section. A committee shall give at least 14 days' public notice of a vacancy. The term of a member filling a vacancy must be set as required by (f) of this section. A chairman shall declare a vacancy on a committee when any of the following occurs:

- (1) a member's death, resignation, or refusal accept election;
- (2) a member's absence from three consecutive, regularly advertised meetings without reasonable justification, as determined by a majority vote of the committee; or
- (3) a member's removal by the joint board for cause.

(h) **Nomination.** A committee member or resident of the area served by the committee who qualifies under this section may submit a nomination for committee membership to the committee orally or in writing, at any regular meeting, regardless of whether a quorum is present. The committee may set a time period during which it will accept nominations. If the committee establishes a time period, it shall give adequate public notice of the time before it accepts nominations. A committee shall vote on each nomination under (e) of this section either at the next regular meeting after it accepts nominations, or at the same meeting at which it accepts a nomination. The committee shall decide whether to vote on nominations at the same or at a subsequent meeting and shall provide appropriate notice of this decision. A person qualifies as a resident of the area served by the committee if the person is a resident as defined in AS 16.05.940 who maintains an abode in the area served by a committee described in 5 AAC 97.005.

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(n) **Removal for Cause.** The joint board will, in its discretion, remove any member of a committee for cause. As used in this subsection, "cause" includes

- (1) unjustifiable absence from three consecutive meetings;
- (2) conviction of a crime or administrative disciplinary action for behavior inconsistent with the responsibility of committee or council membership within the preceding five years;
- (3) disregard for or violation of the provisions of 5 AAC 96 or 5 AAC 97 governing the committee and council system; or
- (4) failure, at any time, to meet the qualifications for committee membership.

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