

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 15, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 665**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Frazier**

February 24, 2015

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An act to amend Section 203.1 of, and to add Sections 200.5 and 200.6 to, the Fish and Game Code, relating to fish and wildlife.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 665, as amended, Frazier. Hunting or fishing: local regulation.

(1) The California Constitution provides for the delegation to the Fish and Game Commission of powers relating to the protection and propagation of fish and game. Existing statutory law delegates to the commission the power to regulate the taking or possession of birds, mammals, fish, amphibia, and reptiles in accordance with prescribed laws. Under existing law, the Department of Fish and Wildlife exercises various functions with regard to the taking of fish and game. Under existing law, a city or county has no authority to regulate fish and game except that a city or county may adopt an ordinance that incidentally affects fishing and hunting for the protection of public health and safety.

This bill would provide that the state fully occupies the field of the taking and possession of fish and game. ~~The bill would prohibit a city or county from adopting an ordinance or regulation relating to the taking or possession of fish and game.~~ The bill would also provide that unless otherwise authorized by the Fish and Game ~~Code or Code~~, other state law, or federal law, the commission and the department are the only entities that may adopt or promulgate regulations regarding the taking or possession of fish and game on any lands or waters within the state.

(2) Existing law requires the commission, when adopting certain regulations relating to the take of resident game birds, game mammals, and fur-bearing mammals, to consider populations, habitat, food supplies, the welfare of individual animals, and other pertinent facts and testimony.

This bill would require the commission to consider these factors when adopting certain regulations relating to the take of fish, amphibians, and reptiles. The bill would also require the commission to consider public health and safety when adopting these regulations.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 200.5 is added to the Fish and Game  
2 Code, to read:

3 200.5. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
4 following:

5 (1) The California Supreme Court in *In re Makings* (1927) 200  
6 Cal. 474, determined that Section 25 ½ of Article IV of the  
7 California Constitution, as currently set forth in Section 20 of  
8 Article IV, prohibits local governmental entities from regulating,  
9 or interfering with, fish and game matters in any manner and places  
10 this responsibility with the Legislature in order to conserve  
11 California’s fish and wildlife and permit the greatest use of fish  
12 and game resources compatible with the reasonable protection  
13 thereof.

14 (2) The commission was established in 1870 to assist in the  
15 scientific, evidence-based management of California’s fish and  
16 wildlife resources. The California Constitution permits the  
17 Legislature to delegate to the commission certain powers relating  
18 to the management of fish and game, and the Legislature has  
19 delegated to the commission regulatory powers over the taking  
20 and possession of fish and game, as set forth in this code.

21 (3) Hunting and fishing are statistically among the safest outdoor  
22 recreational activities, and are already well regulated by the state  
23 through mandatory safety and education requirements, firearms  
24 laws, and regulations adopted by the commission. Additional local  
25 regulation would impede the proper administration of state fish  
26 and game laws and would create significant enforcement issues.

1 Hunting and fishing activities are also compatible with other  
2 recreational uses on many public lands and waters throughout the  
3 state.

4 (b) In enacting this section and Section 200.6, it is the intent of  
5 the Legislature to affirm, subject to applicable federal law, the  
6 exclusive legal authority granted to the commission and the  
7 department with regard to the taking and possession of fish and  
8 game and thereby ensure necessary statewide control by the  
9 commission and the department over fish and game matters for  
10 wildlife conservation purposes and the protection of, and access  
11 to, hunting and fishing opportunities for the public.

12 SEC. 2. Section 200.6 is added to the Fish and Game Code, to  
13 read:

14 200.6. (a) ~~(1)~~—The state fully occupies the field of the taking  
15 and possession of fish and game pursuant to this code, regulations  
16 adopted by the commission pursuant to this code, and Section 20  
17 of Article IV of the California Constitution, and all local ordinances  
18 and regulations are subject to this section.

19 ~~(2) A city or county shall not adopt an ordinance or regulation~~  
20 ~~within its jurisdiction relating to the taking or possession of fish~~  
21 ~~and game.~~

22 (b) The commission, the department, or any other governmental  
23 entity legally authorized to affect hunting and fishing on navigable  
24 waters held in public trust shall ensure that the fishing and hunting  
25 rights of the public guaranteed under Section 25 of Article I and  
26 Section 4 of Article X of the California Constitution are protected  
27 in a manner consistent with those provisions.

28 (c) (1) Unless expressly authorized by this code, *other state*  
29 *law*, or federal law, the commission and the department are the  
30 only entities in the state that may adopt or promulgate regulations  
31 regarding the taking or possession of fish and game on any lands  
32 or waters within the state.

33 (2) Nothing in this section or Section 200.5 prohibits a public  
34 or private landowner, or the landowner's designee, from controlling  
35 public access or public use, including hunting or fishing, on  
36 property that the landowner owns in fee, leases, holds an easement  
37 upon, or is otherwise expressly authorized to control for those  
38 purposes in a manner consistent with state law.

1     (3) *This section applies only to activities for which a hunting*  
2     *or fishing license or a depredation permit is required by this code*  
3     *or regulations adopted by the commission.*

4     SEC. 3. Section 203.1 of the Fish and Game Code is amended  
5     to read:

6     203.1. When adopting regulations pursuant to Section 203 or  
7     205, the commission shall consider populations, habitat, food  
8     supplies, the welfare of individual animals, public health and safety,  
9     and other pertinent facts and testimony.

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