

HB 1722 -- PARK SERVICES

SPONSOR: Sutherland

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Tourism by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill authorizes the Director of the Department of Natural Resources to enter into cooperative agreements with private, not-for-profit organizations to reimburse the department for the actual costs of providing state park facility space and incidental staff support. The agreement must also clearly demonstrate the fiscal, interpretive, educational, and facility enhancement benefits to the state.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will allow nonprofit organizations to enhance state parks by working in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources. These groups have a lot of knowledge as well as enthusiasm and will create or enhance trails for biking or hiking in a time when federal and state funding is limited. When volunteers work in a state park, a sense of ownership is developed, making them better visitors.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Sutherland; Department of Natural Resources; Missouri Trails Advisory Board; and Osage Region Trail Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Alice Hurley, Legislative Analyst