

HB 75 -- PARK SERVICES

SPONSOR: Sutherland

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on State Parks and Waterways by a vote of 8 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 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill gives volunteers the ability to enhance any state park in Missouri. Currently, organizations can enhance a park if the organization's sole mission is to enhance that one park, which limits the Department of Natural Resources' ability to work with large volunteer groups.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Sutherland; and Department of Natural Resources.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.