

HCS HB 1815 -- USE OF STATE PARK FACILITIES

SPONSOR: Weter (Pollock)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Rural Community Development by a vote of 9 to 2.

This substitute exempts the normal and customary use of state park trails and roads by commercial and noncommercial organizations to transport persons, bicycles, or watercraft from the prohibition on the use of the trails and roads without written permission from the Department of Natural Resources.

The substitute contains an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will allow persons and businesses to provide floating and biking transportation services in park areas. It will assist with the safe transportation of canoeing clients, will not hurt concession contractors, and will help keep the commercial canoeing industry thriving.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Pollock; Bob and Johnnie Burns, Niangua River Oasis; Kelly Peace, Hidden Valley Outfitters; and Missouri Canoe and Floaters Association.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the bill could have unintended negative consequences by constraining park management efforts. There could be a better solution to the problem through a non-legislative agreement. The safety of canoeing clients could become a problem.

Testifying against the bill were Pat Cox, Starboard Marinas; Jim Rodgers, Moparks, Inc.; Harry Lefferts, Stockton State Park Marina; Conservation Federation of Missouri; Susan Flader, Missouri Parks Association; and Missouri Park and Recreation Association.