

HCS HB 698 -- STATE PARKS (Pietzman)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources

This bill specifies that prior to establishing a new state park or expanding any existing park by more than 10% of its current acreage, the current state parks shall be properly maintained, brought up-to-date and in good working order, including no park can have deferred maintenance. The Department of Natural Resources may acquire lands, regardless of the acreage, by donation or gift; however the lands may not be modified, improved, or added onto using state funds prior to meeting the requirements of the bill unless the department must repair or modify the property to protect public health, safety, or welfare. The department must also submit an annual report to the General Assembly regarding maintenance and construction at state parks and historic sites.