

HB 1044 -- ROCK ISLAND TRAIL STATE PARK

SPONSOR: Wood

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 0.

This bill creates the "Rock Island Trail State Park Endowment Fund" within the Department of Natural Resources to receive funds for the operation, maintenance, or security of any portion of the former Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad corridor east of milepost 215.325.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the Rock Island Trail would be an economic driver for the state and would be one of the longest trails in the United States and, connected with the Katy Trail, would be part of one of the longest looped trails in the world. This bill would allow for private donations to help with the cost of developing and maintaining the trail, which would allow for the current dedicated sales tax funds to continue to be used for the existing parks system.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Wood; Missouri Department of Natural Resources; Gary Gates, Missouri Parks & Recreation Association; Brent Hugh, Missouri Bridge & Pedestrian Federation; Historic Revitalization For Missouri; Conservation Federation of Missouri; The Nature Conservancy; Susan Flader, Missouri Parks Association; Warren Wood, Ameren Missouri; Greg Harris, Missouri Rock Island Trail, Inc.; Kim Henderson; and James R. Mihalevich.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.