

HCS HB 2047 -- STATE PARKS

SPONSOR: Houghton

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 8 to 3. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Agriculture by a vote of 6 to 3.

This bill allows for the use of utility vehicles and golf carts at a speed of 15 miles per hour or less by individuals who are disabled or 60 years of age or older on the Katy Trail on Wednesdays.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that many seniors would like to enjoy the Katy Trail but are not physically able to walk or bike the trail. By allowing golf carts and ATVs on a limited basis, the trail would be accessible to more Missourians.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Houghton; Glenn Ridder; Joe Vomund; and AARP Missouri.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that many people bike or walk on the trail because they feel it is safer than on the road with other vehicles. Allowing these vehicles on the trail would decrease the safety because the trail is not designed to accommodate these types of vehicles. In addition, retired citizens already use the trail for recreational purposes.

Testifying against the bill was Rachel Ruhlen, Missouri Bicycle And Pedestrian Federation.