

HCS HB 1206 -- STATE PARKS

SPONSOR: Anderson

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" 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 8 to 0.

Currently, all facilities constructed at Missouri State Parks by the Department of Natural Resources must be done with appropriated funds. This bill specifies that if the director has entered into a binding agreement with a donor or grantor, the department may use funds from the donor or grantor.

Also, currently, all bids for contracts for private entities to operate facilities or supply services on a state park must be advertised in daily or weekly newspapers. This bill would only require the department to advertise for bid any concession contract with expected annual gross receipts of \$25,000 or more. The director must give preference to Missouri businesses when competing bids are comparable.

The director may also allow a contract to extend to operations or management in more than one state park if he or she determines it to be in the best interest of the state based on an assessment of the financial and operational history of the facility.

The director may authorize a private entity to provide services to visitors to department property for up to two years through a commercial use permit without soliciting competitive sealed bids. Any commercial use permit is limited to commercial operations with annual gross receipts of no more than \$100,000 resulting from the services within the park or historic site and which only involve incidental use of state park or historic site facility space or resources.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill would modernize the bidding process for concessionaires. It would also allow the department to provide park visitors with more options for services through short-term commercial use permits.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Anderson; William Farrand, Missouri Parks Association; and Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.