

NATURAL RESOURCES -- FORESTRY, PARKS, AND RECREATION

Park Fee Increases and Electrical Campsite Cap and Fees
[LFB Paper #467]

Motion:

Move to adopt Alternatives A2 and B1.

In addition, restore the requirement that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Transportation jointly develop a plan to authorize the purchase of a recreational passport when an individual initiates or renews his or her annual vehicle registration. Require the plan to include as an option the creation of a recreational passport as a special license plate registration sticker that shows both the vehicle registration expiration year and an indicator that the sticker is also a recreational passport. Additionally, require the plan to include the costs of implementing the plan, a timeline for implementing the plan, and the estimated revenue to be collected when the plan is fully implemented. Further, require the Departments to complete the plan in time for the plan to be included in DNR's 2019-21 budget request.

Delete 10.0 vacant forestry or parks SEG positions. Require the Department of Administration to provide a report to the Joint Committee on Finance for the Committee's review identifying the deleted positions by funding source and appropriation. Require that the report be submitted by January 1, 2018. Require that the final 2017-19 appropriations schedule reflect funding reductions associated with deleted positions.

Further, increase the statutory cap on the percentage of campsites in state parks that may be electrified from 30% to 35%. In addition, specify that the nightly fee for electric campsites at the following five high-demand parks be \$15, rather than the current \$10 fee: Devil's Lake, High Cliff, Kohler-Andrae, Peninsula, and Willow River. Further, create continuing amounts in the schedule, appropriation from parks account revenues and provide \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2017-18 and \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2018-19 in one-time funding for development and maintenance activities on state park properties.

Posted By:
Wheeler Reports, Inc.

Note:

The motion would adopt alternatives A2 and B1 of LFB Paper #467, which would adopt the Governor's recommendation to increase most state park and forest daily parks admission fees by up to \$5 at the DNR Secretary's discretion, but maintain current statutory fees for annual admission;

and adopt the Governor's recommendation to increase the range of nightly camping fees in state parks by up to \$10, at the DNR Secretary's discretion.

Under section 27.01(15)(b) of the statutes, the number of state park campsites that have electric receptacles maintained by DNR is limited to no more than 30% of all state park campsites (prior to 2009 Act 28, the cap was 25%). In addition, the number of campsites in any one state park that may have electric receptacles is currently 50%. Current law also specifies that at least 25% of all state park campsites must be rustic campsites (located in campgrounds that do not provide modern facilities such as electrical receptacles, flush-toilets, and showers). The motion would increase the cap on the number of electrical receptacles from 30% to 35%, increase the fee for electric campsites at five high-demand properties by \$5 per night, and provide \$1 million in fiscal year 2017-18 and in fiscal year 2018-19 for property development and maintenance on state park properties.

Excluding host sites, which do not produce revenue, the Department currently has a total of 3,967 campsites in state parks (1,160 electric and 2,807 non-electric). (Additional campsites are located in southern forests, which are managed by parks staff but not subject to the state park electrical campsite limitation). The motion would increase the cap on electrical receptacles in state parks from 30% to 35%, which would allow the Department to electrify approximately 200 existing non-electric sites.

[Change to Base: \$2,000,000 SEG, \$3,545,000 SEG-REV, -10 SEG positions]

[Change to Bill: \$2,000,000 SEG, -\$325,000 SEG-REV, -10 SEG positions]