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BILL ANALYSIS

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Senate Bill 1280 (Substitute S-1 as reported)
Sponsor: Senator Patricia L. Birkholz
Committee: Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs

CONTENT

The bill would amend Part 741 (State Parks System) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to create the Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks, which would be required to recommend parks policy, provide guidance, educate the public, and perform other tasks. The Committee would consist of 17 individuals appointed by the Director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and with the advice of the Natural Resources Commission.

The Committee would have to do all of the following:

- Advise and make recommendations to the Governor, the Commission, and the Legislature on State parks policy and provide guidance on State parks development, management, and planning issues.
- Seek the development of a broad variety of programs, facilities, and services for citizens using State parks.
- Inform and educate the public about the importance of and need for State parks.
- Strive to involve citizens in the planning and development of State parks.
- Strive to ensure that the facilities, programs, and projects were barrier-free and accessible to all citizens.
- Establish and maintain effective public relations regarding State parks, using all appropriate communications media.
- Advise on financial planning and pursue adequate budget support for State parks.
- Serve as a liaison and coordinate with other agencies to ensure a cooperative effort to provide the most effective and economical service possible at State parks.
- Evaluate the State parks' programs, facilities, services, and relationships periodically to assure that the Committee's goals and objectives were being achieved.
- Advise and make recommendations to the DNR on the Gem of the Parks Award, the State Parks Volunteer of the Year Award, and the State Parks Employee of the Year Award (all of which would be established by Senate Bill 1281).

MCL 324.74101 et al.

Legislative Analyst: Claire Layman

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would result in minimal expenses related to reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses incurred by members of the Committee.

Date Completed: 6-16-04

Fiscal Analyst: Jessica Runnels

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Analysis available @ <http://www.michiganlegislature.org>

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