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## OLR Bill Analysis

### sHB 5370

#### ***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING CERTAIN FISCAL AND RESOURCE-RELATED MATTERS PERTAINING TO STATE PARKS.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill generally requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to deposit 50% of all state park operation revenue into the General Fund's "maintenance, repair, and improvement account" (MRI account).

It requires these funds to be used for operation expenses at all state parks. As under existing law, all funds collected from renting state park property for special events, such as weddings, are deposited into the MRI subaccounts for the specific parks where the rentals occur, unless an agreement states otherwise.

The bill requires DEEP's commissioner to allocate and deposit an unspecified part of the revenue from renting a state park cabin to the MRI subaccount for the park where the cabin is located. It requires this revenue to be used only for maintaining cabins in the same park.

The bill also establishes several state park-related reporting requirements. It requires:

1. the commissioner to include park operation revenue information in his semiannual report to the Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) on funds deposited into the MRI account;
2. DEEP's Bureau of Outdoor Recreation to develop a results-based accountability (RBA) report card on state parks; and
3. the bureau to (a) review each state park by February 1, 2020 and (b) update each review every five years.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014, except for the RBA report card provision, which is effective upon passage.

### **CABIN RENTAL REVENUE**

Under the bill, 50% of revenue from state park operations, other than from special event rentals, must be deposited into the MRI account. This includes cabin rental revenue. The bill also requires an unspecified portion of cabin rental revenue to be deposited into the MRI subaccounts for the state parks where the cabins are located. It is unclear whether this portion is in addition to, or included in, the 50% that must be transferred to the MRI account.

### **REPORT TO OFA**

The bill requires the DEEP commissioner to include in his semiannual state park funding reports to OFA the amounts the MRI account receives from park operation revenue.

Under current law, he reports only on the parks that obtain funds from renting property for special events. The reports include the (1) funds, itemized by park subaccount; (2) amount DEEP used for each park; and (3) projects paid for by the funds. The bill retains these reporting requirements, but requires the commissioner to include information on park operation revenue, by type and location.

As required under existing law for the special event rental revenue information, the operation revenue information must be posted on DEEP's website.

### **RBA REPORT CARD**

Under the bill, DEEP's Bureau of Outdoor Recreation must annually develop an RBA report card on state parks and complete the first one by December 31, 2014.

The report card must be (1) developed according to guidelines established by the Appropriations Committee, (2) submitted to the Environment and Appropriations committees, and (3) posted on DEEP's website. It must (1) identify challenges or areas for improvement and (2) include measures on park use and operations.

The measures on park use must include attendance, safety, and visitor satisfaction. The park operations measures must include planning, facilities, and personnel.

### **STATE PARK REVIEWS**

The bill requires the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation to review each state park and update the reviews every five years. A review must:

1. assess the park's condition,
2. examine the park's staffing needs,
3. inventory the park's facilities, and
4. assess the facilities' historic significance and potential for generating revenue.

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Program Review and Investigations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 11 Nay 0 (03/13/2014)