

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



**PA 14-43**—sSB 314

*Environment Committee*

*Planning and Development Committee*

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE HERITAGE PARKS ADVISORY BOARDS**

**SUMMARY:** This act allows the energy and environmental protection (DEEP) commissioner to designate or alter a heritage park without (1) getting approval from affected municipalities' legislative bodies and (2) appointing a board to advise him on the park's boundaries, name, and theme, as prior law required. The act also requires the commissioner to create a plan to develop and promote a heritage park, but eliminates the need for him to appoint an advisory board. Under prior law, the advisory boards consisted of at least 10 members from the municipalities within the proposed park.

The act also removes an obsolete reference to the State Historic Commission.  
EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**BACKGROUND**

*Heritage Park Designation*

The law requires the DEEP commissioner, in consultation with the economic and community development commissioner, to develop criteria and guidelines for designating heritage parks consisting of sites in a region linked by a common social, historical, or economic theme. Sites need not be contiguous or owned by the state, but a site's owner must consent to its inclusion in a park before it can be designated. The DEEP commissioner must hold a public hearing on a park's proposed boundaries, name, and theme at least 30 days before making or changing a designation and give newspaper notice of the proposal at least 30 days before the hearing.

OLR Tracking: JLK:LH:PF:RO