WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 1997

ENROLLED
Committee Substitute for
SENATE BILL NO. 139

(By Senator CRAIG, et al.)

PASSED APRIL 12, 1997
In Effect NINETY DAYS FROM Passage
AN ACT to amend and reenact section two, article five, chapter twenty of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to the powers and duties of the director of the division of natural resources; allowing campsites to be reserved two days in advance when space is available; providing for credit card reservations at state parks and recreational areas; and requiring the director to develop a plan for a centralized computer reservation system and to implement the plan when funding becomes available.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:
That section two, article five, chapter twenty of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 5. PARKS AND RECREATION.

§20-5-2. Powers of the director with respect to the section of parks and recreation.

The director of the division of natural resources is responsible for the execution and administration of the provisions in this article as an integral part of the parks and recreation program of the state and shall organize and staff the section of parks and recreation for the orderly, efficient and economical accomplishment of these ends. The authority granted in the year one thousand nine hundred ninety-four to the director of the division of natural resources to employ up to six additional unclassified personnel to carry out the parks functions of the division of natural resources is continued.

The director of the division of natural resources shall:

(a) Establish, manage and maintain the state's parks and recreation system for the benefit of the people of this state and do all things necessary and incidental to the development and administration of the state's parks and recreation system;

(b) Acquire property for the state in the name of the division of natural resources by purchase, lease or agreement; retain, employ and contract with legal advisors and consultants; or accept or reject for the state, in the name of the division, gifts, donations, contributions, bequests or devises of money, security or property, both real and personal, and any interest in the property, including lands and waters, for state park or recreational areas for the purpose of providing public recreation: Provided, That the provisions of section twenty, article one of this chapter are specifically made applicable to any acquisitions of land: Provided, however, That any sale, exchange or transfer of property for the purposes of completing land acquisitions or providing improved recreational opportunities to the citizens of the state is subject to the procedures of article one-a of this chapter: Provided further,
That no sale of any park or recreational area property, including lands and waters, used for purposes of providing public recreation on the effective date of this article and no privatization of any park may occur without statutory authority;

(c) Approve and direct the use of all revenue derived from the operation of the state parks and public recreation system for the operation, maintenance and improvement of the system, individual projects of the system or for the retirement of park development revenue bonds;

(d) Approve the use of no less than twenty percent of the: (i) Funds appropriated for purposes of advertising and marketing expenses related to the promotion and development of tourism, pursuant to subsection (j), section eighteen, article twenty-two, chapter twenty-nine of this code; and (ii) funds authorized for expenditure from the tourism promotion fund for purposes of direct advertising, pursuant to section twelve, article two, chapter five-b of this code and section ten, article twenty-two-a, chapter twenty-nine of this code, to effectively promote and market the state's parks, state forests, state recreation areas and wildlife recreational resources;

(e) Issue park development revenue bonds as provided in this article;

(f) Provide for the construction and operation of cabins, lodges, resorts, restaurants and other developed recreational service facilities, subject to the provisions of section fifteen of this article and section twenty, article one of this chapter;

(g) Propose rules to control uses of the parks, subject to the provisions of chapter twenty-nine-a of this code: Provided, That the director may not permit public hunting, the exploitation of minerals or the harvesting of timber for commercial purposes in any state park;

(h) Exempt designated state parks from the requirement that all payments must be deposited in a bank within twenty-four hours for amounts less than two hundred fifty dollars notwithstanding any other provision of this code
to the contrary;

(i) Waive the use fee normally charged to an individual or group for one day's use of a picnic shelter or one week's use of a cabin in a state recreation area when the individual or group donates the materials and labor for the construction of the picnic shelter or cabin: Provided, That the individual or group was authorized by the director to construct the picnic shelter or cabin and that it was constructed in accordance with the authorization granted and the standards and requirements of the division pertaining to the construction. The individual or group to whom the waiver is granted may use the picnic shelter for one reserved day or the cabin for one reserved week during each calendar year until the amount of the donation equals the amount of the loss of revenue from the waiver or until the individual dies or the group ceases to exist, whichever first occurs. The waiver is not transferable. The director shall permit free use of picnic shelters or cabins to individuals or groups who have contributed materials and labor for construction of picnic shelters or cabins prior to the effective date of this section. The director shall propose a legislative rule for promulgation in accordance with the provisions of article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code governing the free use of picnic shelters or cabins provided for in this section, the eligibility for free use, the determination of the value of the donations of labor and materials, the appropriate definitions of a group and the maximum time limit for the use;

(j) Provide within the parks a market for West Virginia arts, crafts and products, which shall permit gift shops within the parks to offer for sale items purchased on the open market from local artists, artisans, craftsmen and suppliers and local or regional crafts cooperatives;

(k) Provide that reservations for reservable campsites may be made, upon two days advance notice, for any date for which space is available within a state park or recreational area managed by the parks and recreation section;

(l) Provide that reservations for all state parks and recreational areas managed by the parks and recreation
section of the division may be made by use of a valid credit card; and

(m) Develop a plan to establish a centralized computer reservation system for all state parks and recreational areas managed by the parks and recreation section and to implement the plan as funds become available.
That Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

[Signatures]

Chairman Senate Committee

Nick Fantasas
Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect ninety days from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

[Signatures]

Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

[Signature]

Speaker House of Delegates

The within is approved this the ______ day of ______, 1997.

[Signature]

Governor