

HCS SCS SB 845 -- MEMORIAL HIGHWAY, STATE PARK SYSTEM, AND MILITARY MEMORIALS

SPONSOR: Yeckel (Jackson)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Transportation and Motor Vehicles by a vote of 20 to 0.

This substitute establishes the "Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Highway" on the portion of Interstate 44 from the intersection of U. S. Highway 100 at the City of Gray Summit west to the county line of Franklin and Crawford counties. The Department of Missouri, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will pay for all appropriate signage.

The substitute establishes the Missouri State Park Board within the Department of Natural Resources as the authority for all matters pertaining to the state park system. The board will consist of eight members, six will reside in separate congressional districts and at least two members will be from counties with a state historic site of significant importance to military history. Members will be appointed by the Governor, with approval of the Senate, and serve three-year staggered terms. The director of the department will serve as the chair with a tie-breaking vote, and the Executive Director of the State Historical Society will be an ex-officio member. The board will meet at least quarterly. Members will serve without compensation, but will be reimbursed for necessary expenses.

The board will hold public meetings on any addition, modification, or removal of military monuments, historical markers, designated veteran's grave markers, accepted practices, or permitted public ceremonies on registered historical sites; maintain a registry of monuments and markers on public and private property; establish procedures for the historical marker program; and publish an annual report.

The substitute also prohibits any state agency from erecting, modifying, or removing any monument or marker or amending any accepted practice or permitted public ceremony at a department site without notifying the public at least 60 days prior to any planned action, holding a hearing, and receiving approval from the board. Any monuments or markers that were in place on December 21, 2002, must be replaced by August 28, 2004. Monuments may be moved to surrounding property or to accommodate construction or repairs. Anyone who removes, defaces, or destroys any monument, memorial, or designated veteran's grave marker is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of Unknown in

FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say they would like this highway designation.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Yeckel.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Robert Triplett, Legislative Analyst