

HB 2220 -- MISSOURI CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL ACT

SPONSOR: Peters

This bill creates "Missouri Civil Rights Trail Act," which requires the Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with the appropriate federal, state, and local governmental entities, to conduct a special resource study to evaluate a range of alternatives for protecting and interpreting sites associated with the struggle for civil rights in this state. Alternatives include the addition of some or all of the sites to the Missouri state park and historic preservation system or the National Trails System.

In conducting the special study, the department must evaluate alternatives for achieving the below objectives:

- (1) Identifying the resources and historic themes associated with the movement to secure racial equality in the United States and the state for African Americans that challenged the practice of racial segregation in the nation and our state and achieved equal rights for all American citizens;
- (2) Making a review of existing studies and reports, such as the Civil Rights Framework Study, to complement and not duplicate other studies of the historical importance of the civil rights movements that may be underway or undertaken;
- (3) Establishing connections with agencies, organizations, and partnerships already engaged in the preservation and interpretation of various trails and sites dealing with the civil rights movement;
- (4) Protecting historically significant landscapes, districts, sites, and structures;
- (5) Identifying alternatives for preservation and interpretation of the sites by the department, the National Park Service, other federal, state, or local governmental entities, or private and nonprofit organizations, including the potential inclusion of some or all of the sites in the Missouri state park and historic preservation system or the National Civil Rights Trail; and
- (6) Identifying cost estimates for any necessary acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives developed under the special resource study.

Within three years of the date on which moneys are made available to carry out the study, the department must submit to the Governor and General Assembly a report containing the results of the study and any recommendations of the department.