

HCS SB 196 -- STATE PARKS AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Currently, the Department of Natural Resources must use appropriated funds to construct facilities on land under the department's jurisdiction. This bill allows the director to enter into a contract with a donor or a grantor to provide funding for the project.

The bill requires the director to advertise bids in daily or weekly newspapers for concession contracts with an expected gross income of \$25,000 or more. When two bids are comparable, preference must be given to a Missouri firm, corporation, or individual.

Currently, a concession contract is only valid for one state park. This bill allows the director to extend the contract to additional state parks if the director determines that the extension is in the best interests of the state park system or facility.

The bill allows the director to issue a commercial use permit, without obtaining sealed bids, to a private person, corporation, or entity to provide services to visitors for a term not to exceed two years. A commercial use permit is limited to an operation with annual gross receipts of not more than \$100,000 from services provided solely within a state park or historic site as specified in the bill (Section 253.080, RSMO).

This bill creates the "Rock Island Trail State Park Endowment Fund" to receive funds for the development of the former Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad Corridor east of milepost 215.325.

If the United States Surface Transportation Board vacates the Notice of Interim Trail Use issued in a decision served on February 26, 2015, any moneys in the fund may be refunded to the individuals or entities that have made contributions to the fund or may be transferred to a new trail sponsor or other entity that has accepted responsibility for the management of the corridor as specified in the bill (Section 253.177).

The bill authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to award grants to preserve, protect, or restore historic county courthouses and county courthouse grounds through the use of the Historic Preservation Revolving Fund (Section 253.402).