

**2019 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**HB 1265**

# 2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Fort Union, State Capitol

HB 1265  
1/17/2019  
30998

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Carmen Hart

### Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

To provide for a legislative management study of state parks

### Minutes:

Attachment 1

**Chairman Kasper** opened the hearing on HB 1265.

**Rep. Blum** appeared in support. HB 1265 would provide for a simple and concise study of our state park system. If taken up by legislative management, the study would provide for a determination of the purpose, value, and benefits of each state park. The study must include a review of each state park's usage, annual attendance figures, and overhead and the cost to operate and maintain, and the market value of the land and structures of each state park. Upon meeting with Director Baker, I have come to the understanding that an appraisal for the market value of the land has the potential to be highly costly and difficult to undertake. Therefore, I am recommending an amendment striking that portion of the proposed study. (2:02)

**Rep. B. Koppelman:** Should this information be reported back to this legislature interim, or should we have hearings during the interim on it?

**Rep. Blum:** Director Baker would be better suited to tell which way would be more appropriate.

**Rep. Vetter:** Would we be studying sectional lines?

**Rep. Blum:** Not to my knowledge.

**Rep. Laning:** Line 4 has the word "shall." Are you opposed to changing that to "may"?

**Rep. Blum:** We could change it to "may".

**Vice Chair Steiner:** Are you aware we have some state park land up by Pick City that is unused at this time? Are you aware that it should include additional land that is undeveloped and could be used as campground?

**Rep. Blum:** I was not aware of that. I would be interested on that from Director Baker as well.

**Melissa Baker, Director of ND Parks and Recreation,** appeared in a neutral position and to answer some questions.

**Rep. B. Koppelman:** Would this information be compiled in a report that would be reviewed? Is this something that there would be some advantage to having all the stakeholders come testify before an interim committee? Which would be the most constructive way of going about this?

**Melissa Baker:** We do have much of this data available, so reporting it out would be very easy for most of it. We would welcome testifiers.

**Rep. B. Koppelman:** It wouldn't be an arduous request to report back at the end of the biennium?

**Melissa Baker:** We would be happy to do that.

**Rep. Schauer:** What are you trying to accomplish with this study? Who actually does the study?

**Melissa Baker:** This bill actually originated outside the agency. We had our first conversations with Rep. Blum yesterday afternoon. We are not sure of the purpose. We are just happy to provide it if it is asked of us.

**Rep. Rohr:** Line 5, the purpose, value, and benefits of each state park, has not been accomplished?

**Melissa Baker:** Most of our parks have management plans that identify purpose and values. We haven't done any scientific measure of benefits. We do have a visitors' study included in our appropriation request for this year that would give us some of that information. As part of our strategic plan this year, one of the things we will be focusing on over the next five years starting this calendar year is reenergizing and adding some rigor to our planning processes within the department.

**Rep. C. Johnson:** Where does the state parks and recreation get their funding?

**Melissa Baker:** The budget of the department in the current biennium is around 42% general fund, 42% special fund largely with visitors' fees, and the remainder of that is about 17% federal grant monies.

**Rep. P. Anderson:** How many state parks do we have?

**Melissa Baker:** We have 13 state parks. We have 15 destination properties, the 13 state parks of which one is Icelandic. We also have the Pembina Gorge State Recreation area which we have been developing over the last few years. We have the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Ft. Mandan which came under our management two biennium ago.

**Chairman Kasper:** Do you have some data about your department that you could provide.

**Melissa Baker:** Yes, I can provide that tomorrow. Attachment 1

Chairman Kasper closed the hearing.

**Rep. Vetter:** Could we combine what Rep. Nelson presented with this?

**Chairman Kasper:** It would be two totally different items. We are not going that route.

**Rep. Hoverson:** Did Rep. Blum say why they should do this study?

**Chairman Kasper:** I just heard him say it was a good idea.

**Rep. Rohr:** What language did Rep. Blum want to change?

**Chairman Kasper:** He wanted to get rid of the market value of the land and changing the word shall to may on Line 4. I think the word consider makes it okay.

**Rep. C. Johnson made a motion to adopt the amendment.**

**Rep. Schauer seconded the motion.**

**Rep. Rohr:** I would like to know the reason.

**Chairman Kasper:** If you are going to try to come up with a market value of all of the parks in the state of North Dakota, you are going to spend a whole lot of money.

**Voice vote. Motion carries.**

**Rep. B. Koppelman:** It appears there must have been some interest in knowing whether the state parks' usage was efficient or whatever. If we really wanted to see this information, I would suggest that they report back to legislative management.

**Chairman Kasper:** If the study is picked up, then they will do it anyway.

**Rep. Schauer:** It just sounds like we are not aiming at what we are trying to accomplish.

**Rep. P. Anderson:** I didn't understand when he said he did it for legislative oversight and authority.

**Chairman Kasper:** I think there might have been a little bit of curiosity if they are worth the expense to maintain.

**Rep. C. Johnson:** If legislative management isn't going to do the study, is there a way to put in language that ND Parks and Recreation should do the study?

**Chairman Kasper:** If we are going to ask them to do a study on their own, that might be a little bit redundant.

**Rep. B. Koppelman:** If we leave it up to a report back to legislative management from a group justifying what they are already doing, that probably isn't going to be a non-partial point of view. I make a motion for a made a motion for a DO PASS AS AMENDED.

**Rep. Laning seconded the motion.**

**Rep. Schauer:** I am going to vote no, and the reason is it is not directed, not aimed, and these people didn't know about it until a couple days ago.

**A roll call vote was taken. 8-5, 1 absent.**

**Rep. Hoverson will carry the bill.**

DA 1/17/19

19.0439.02001  
Title.03000

Adopted by the Government and Veterans  
Affairs Committee

January 17, 2019

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1265

Page 1, line 6, remove the first "and"

Page 1, line 6, after "overhead" insert a comma

Page 1, line 7, remove ", and the market value of the land and structures of"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 1-17-19  
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
 ROLL CALL VOTES  
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1265**

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

- Recommendation:  Adopt Amendment  
 Do Pass     Do Not Pass     Without Committee Recommendation  
 As Amended     Rerefer to Appropriations  
 Place on Consent Calendar  
 Other Actions:  Reconsider     \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Rep C. Johnson Seconded By Rep. Schauer

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Jim Kasper			Rep. Pamela Anderson		
Vice Chair Vicky Steiner			Rep. Mary Schneider		
Rep. Jeff Hoverson					
Rep. Craig Johnson					
Rep. Daniel Johnston					
Rep. Karen Karls					
Rep. Ben Koppelman					
Rep. Vernon Laning					
Rep. Scott Louser					
Rep. Karen Rohr					
Rep. Austen Schauer					
Rep. Steve Vetter					

*voice  
 vote  
 motion  
 carries*

Total (Yes) \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:  
*To remove the words <sup>of the</sup> the market value ~~and~~ land and structures*

Date: 1-17-19  
 Roll Call Vote #: 3

**2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
 ROLL CALL VOTES  
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1265**

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation:  Adopt Amendment  
 Do Pass     Do Not Pass     Without Committee Recommendation  
 As Amended     Rerefer to Appropriations  
 Place on Consent Calendar  
 Other Actions:  Reconsider     \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Rep B. Koppelman Seconded By Rep Laning

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Jim Kasper		X	Rep. Pamela Anderson	X	
Vice Chair Vicky Steiner		X	Rep. Mary Schneider		X
Rep. Jeff Hoverson	X				
Rep. Craig Johnson	X				
Rep. Daniel Johnston	X				
Rep. Karen Karls		X			
Rep. Ben Koppelman	X				
Rep. Vernon Laning	X				
Rep. Scott Louser	A				
Rep. Karen Rohr	X				
Rep. Austen Schauer		X			
Rep. Steve Vetter	X				

Total (Yes) 8 No 5

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep. Hoverson

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1265: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Kasper, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (8 YEAS, 5 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1265 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 6, remove the first "and"

Page 1, line 6, after "overhead" insert a comma

Page 1, line 7, remove ", and the market value of the land and structures of"

Renumber accordingly

**2019 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**HB 1265**

# 2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Sheyenne River Room, State Capitol

HB1265  
3/14/2019  
#33745

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Pam Dever

### Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

To provide for a legislative management study of state parks.

### Minutes:

**Chairman Davison:** Let's open the hearing for HB1265.

**Rep. Jake Blum, Dist. 42, Grand Forks:** This bill would provide a simple and concise study of our state park system. It would take up the benefits and purpose of each state park and study costs and revenue. How we can help and examine our states prize parks system; depending on what we discover from the study. (1.26)

**Sen. Kristin Roers:** What brought this to your attention?

**Rep. Blum:** Members of the governor's staff prompted this. Director Baker did not have a problem with it. It was in good faith.

**Sen. Jay Elkin:** Has there ever been a study like this before?

**Rep. Blum:** I am not aware.

**Chairman Davison:** Any more in support? Agencies?

**Melissa Baker, Dir. N.D. Parks and Recreation Dept.:** (2.39) I wanted to make myself available if you have questions.

**Sen. Jay Elkin:** Are you aware of any past study of cost operations, etc.

**Melissa:** No, I am not aware of any legislative study nor am I aware of a study that our department has ever done. We have been working on better accounting for our costs. I don't see anything negative coming from this. (3.39) We believe we have most of the information they want already.

**Chairman Davison:** We have great value in our parks. Anyone against? Close the hearing. What are the committee wishes?

**Sen. Kristin Roers:** I move a DO PASS.

**Sen. Shawn Vedaa:** I second.

**Chairman Davison:** Discussion. Take the roll: **YES -- 6 NO -- 1**  
**HB1265 PASSED. Sen. Shawn Vedaa will carry the bill.**

(Sen. Meyer and Sen. Oban came in after recorder was closed and voted. )



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1265, as engrossed: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Davison, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 1 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1265 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

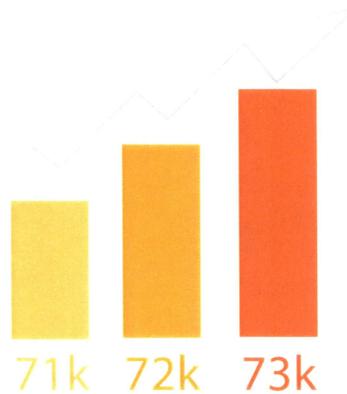
**2019 TESTIMONY**

**HB 1265**

# North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department



1.11 MILLION Visitors to ND State Parks in 2018



2% INCREASE

Occupied sites 2018



Campers From every state in the US & 5 Canadian Provinces in 2018

2,985 Cabin Rentals in 2018  
3% increase from 2017

769 Yurt Rentals in 2018  
9% increase from 2017

111 Tipi Rentals in 2018  
1% decrease from 2017

\$123 MILLION Value of buildings and infrastructure



## ECONOMIC IMPACT

\*Economic impact stats from 2013 study



\$58 Million  
General Visitors



\$30 Million  
Overnight Visitors



\$1.4 Million  
Special Event Participants



\$9.9 Million  
Operational Expenditures

\$99 Million  
Direct Contribution

\$134 Million  
Secondary Contribution

\$99 Million

Direct Contribution To Local Communities

\$233 Million

Total Contribution

#1  
HB 1205  
1-17-19

# GRANTS PROGRAM

## Land and Water Conservation Fund

2010-2017

- 41 Projects Completed
- \$4.00 Million Awarded
- 20 Counties Benefited

## Recreational Trails Program

2010-2017

- 73 Projects Completed
- \$8.50 Million Awarded
- 53 Counties Benefited

## Community Grants Program

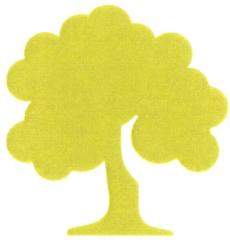
2010-2015

- 26 Projects Completed
- \$1.17 Million Awarded
- 16 Counties Benefited

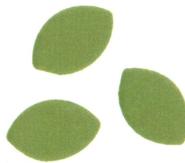


## 53/53 COUNTIES

Have been served through the NDPRD grants program



**2,940 TREES**  
and shrubs were planted  
2017-2018



**44.78 ACRES**  
of native prairie restoration  
in 2017-2018



**2,803 MILES**  
Snowmobile Trails



**184.27 MILES**  
Hiking Trails



**129.86 MILES**  
Biking Trails



**113.12 MILES**  
Equestrian Trails



**91.68 MILES**  
Snowshoeing Trails



**47.5 MILES**  
OHV Trails



**38.79 MILES**  
Cross-Country Ski Trails



**9.4/10 STARS**  
Data was collected from 754  
Facebook reviews of 12 different  
properties managed by NDPRD



**60.04 ACRES**  
Of prescribed fires on  
restored prairies in 2017-2018

2