

CHAPTER 41

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

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SUBCHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

41.01 Definitions. In this chapter:

- (1) “Department” means the department of tourism.
- (2) “Secretary” means the secretary of tourism.

History: 1995 a. 27.

SUBCHAPTER II

TOURISM PROMOTION

41.11 Duties. (1) GENERAL DUTIES. The department shall:

- (a) Stimulate, promote, advertise and publicize tourism to the state by those who live in other states and foreign countries.
- (b) Promote travel by citizens of this state to this state’s scenic, historic, natural, agricultural, educational and recreational attractions.
- (c) Create an accurate national and international image of the state.
- (d) Encourage all tourism–related businesses to participate in available education programs.
- (e) Encourage and cooperate with communities, groups and individuals in the state in pursuing the tourism promotion objectives of the department.
- (f) Coordinate and stimulate the orderly and ecologically sound development of commercial tourist facilities throughout the state.
- (g) Promote the growth of the tourism and recreation industry through research, planning and assistance.
- (h) Annually report to the senate natural resources committee and the assembly committee on tourism the activities, receipts and disbursements of the division of tourism for the previous fiscal year.

(2) SALES. The secretary shall annually formulate, in consultation with the 5 members of the council on tourism selected under s. 41.12, a statewide marketing strategy, which is a plan for marketing and promotion of the facilities and attractions of the state for the ensuing year. The department shall implement the plan. The department shall cooperate with the commercial recreation industry to assure coordination with private plans and programs, and may assist in the development and marketing of combined recreational opportunities such as package tours, convention and trade show facilities and special transportation arrangements.

(3) SERVICES. The department shall assist the consumers and the suppliers of recreational opportunities in the state. The department may:

(a) Collect and disseminate information as to the facilities, advantages and attractions of the state, including historic, scenic and other points of interest.

(b) Provide timely information regarding weather, transportation facilities, hunting, fishing, boating, motoring, snowmobiling and skiing conditions and other subjects of interest to those seeking recreational opportunities in the state.

(c) Establish, manage and operate permanent or temporary tourist information centers along major highways into the state.

(d) Provide advice and service to persons or groups engaged in the recreation industry.

(e) Conduct research into the status and needs of the recreation industry.

(f) Operate a reservations service for recreational facilities in the state.

(g) Provide planning and coordinating assistance to tour operators, convention and trade show managers.

(4) ADVERTISING. The department shall plan and conduct a program of advertising and promotion designed to attract interested persons to this state and to stimulate the enjoyment of its recreational opportunities by residents and nonresidents alike. Any contracts engaging a private agency to conduct an advertising or promotion program under this subsection shall reserve to the department the right to terminate the contract if the service is unsatisfactory to the department. The department shall encourage and coordinate the efforts of public and private organizations to publicize the facilities and attractions of the state for the purpose of stimulating their enjoyment by residents and tourists.

(4m) ACCESS TO CUSTOMER INFORMATION; FEES. (a) Notwithstanding s. 19.35, the department may refuse to reveal names, addresses and related demographic information maintained on any list that the department has compiled of persons who have requested information about travel opportunities in the state. The department may not refuse to reveal such information to representatives of the news media.

(b) Notwithstanding s. 19.71, if the department provides information from a list of persons requesting travel information, the department may charge the person requesting the information a fee to recover the department’s actual costs of compiling and providing the information. The department may reduce or waive the fee under this subsection if the department determines that the reduction or waiver is in the public interest.

(5) CHEESE DISTRIBUTION. (a) The department shall distribute cheese that was donated, or purchased from donations received under par. (c), free of charge to the public each year from the 2nd to last Monday in May to the first Monday in September at each tourist information center operated by the department in this state except the tourist information center located in Madison.

(b) Cheese distributed under par. (a) shall be in packages of one ounce or less and shall be manufactured in Wisconsin.

(c) The department shall accept cheese, and refrigeration equipment and gifts, grants, bequests and devises, for the purpose of implementing this subsection. If there is an insufficient amount of cheese available to implement this subsection, the department shall contact potential donors for donations. The department shall return any surplus cheese to the donor.

History: 1975 c. 39, 163, 200; 1983 a. 92; 1987 a. 1; 1995 a. 27 s. 6918; Stats. 1995 s. 41.11; 1999 a. 9.

41.12 Council on tourism. (1) The council on tourism shall advise the secretary on matters relating to tourism. Five members of the council on tourism shall assist the secretary in formulating a statewide marketing strategy. The 5 members shall be selected by a vote of the council on tourism from among the members, other than ex officio members, of the council on tourism.

(2) The council on tourism shall develop a plan to assist and encourage private companies located in this state to promote this state in their advertisements. Upon the adoption of a plan by the council on tourism, the secretary shall consider implementing the plan.

(3) The council on tourism shall consider the use of famous residents and former residents of this state in the tourism marketing strategies.

History: 1987 a. 1; 1995 a. 27 s. 6919; Stats. 1995 s. 41.12.

41.14 Offices. The department may establish tourism offices, within or without the state, as necessary to carry out its duties. Wisconsin residency may not be required of classified employees staffing tourism offices located outside the state.

History: 1975 c. 39, 163, 200; 1995 a. 27 s. 6920; Stats. 1995 s. 41.14.

41.15 Film promotion. (1) In this section, “film” means any product created using any technology for the recording, storage and reproduction of audiovisual material.

(2) The department shall encourage persons to produce films which will enhance the image of this state and its communities and countryside. To carry out this purpose, it shall:

(a) Prepare and distribute promotional and informational materials identifying factors which make it desirable to produce films in this state and describing the services available from local and state governmental units and from the private sector in this state.

(b) Help persons secure licenses and permits, and provide other appropriate services, related to film production.

(c) Help persons obtain cooperation from local, state and federal governmental units and from the private sector in order to produce films.

(d) Coordinate its activities with the activities of similar bodies created by local governmental units in this state.

(3) It may apply for, receive and spend grants and donations to fund its operations.

History: 1987 a. 27, 403; 1995 a. 27 s. 6921; Stats. 1995 s. 41.15.

41.17 Joint effort marketing. (2) ELIGIBILITY. Any public or private organization not organized or incorporated for profit, including a tribal organization of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state, and any elected governing body of a federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state may apply to the department for joint effort marketing funds under this section. Prior to applying for such funds, each prospective applicant shall have submitted, at the time and in the manner provided by departmental rule, a plan and budget specifying the media to be used, the market to be approached, the facilities and attractions to be promoted and the applicant’s estimated expenditures and receipts for the various projects within the plan. If such plan is coordinated with the statewide marketing strategy, the department shall approve it and the submitting organization or governing body shall be eligible to apply for joint effort marketing funds under this section.

(3) WRITTEN AGREEMENTS. Each joint effort marketing project shall be implemented by a written agreement between the depart-

ment and the applicant organization or governing body. The agreement shall specify at a minimum:

(a) The name, address and contact person for the applicant and its advertising agency, if any.

(b) A description of the project, including the media to be used, the date or inclusive dates and the geographic market to be reached.

(c) An itemized statement of the estimated total costs of the project.

(d) An itemized statement of the revenues accruing to the applicant from the project through advertising, contributions and other sources.

(em) The conditions for the release of the joint effort marketing funds under this section.

(4) LIMITATIONS. (a) No state funds may be released for a project that is not included within an advertising plan and budget submitted by an eligible organization or governing body and approved by the department.

(b) No funds may be released except in accordance with the agreement concluded under sub. (3).

(c) Funds released in any given project may not exceed 50% of the total project costs, less that portion of the amounts recovered by the applicant through the sale of advertising or other promotional considerations in connection with the project which exceeds 50% of the total project costs.

(d) No funds may be used to compensate any officer or employee of the applicant for salaries or expenses.

(e) No name or picture of any living state or local public official or candidate for public office may be used in any project for which state funds are received under this section.

(f) No payments may be released except upon presentation of receipted vouchers for project expenditures by the applicant, together with such other documentary evidence substantiating payments and the purposes for which the payments were made as the departmental rules require.

(g) The department may promulgate rules imposing additional requirements to ensure that public funds are used to promote the maximum number of attractions and facilities.

(5) FUNDING SOURCE. Subject to the 50% limitation under s. 20.380 (1) (b) and the proportional expenditure requirements under s. 20.380 (1) (b) and (kg), the department shall expend, from the appropriations under s. 20.380 (1) (b) and (kg), at least \$1,130,000 in the aggregate in each fiscal year in joint effort marketing funds under this section.

History: 1975 c. 39, 163, 200; 1991 a. 39; 1995 a. 27 s. 6922; Stats. 1995 s. 41.17; 1999 a. 9.

41.19 Heritage tourism program. (1) In this section:

(a) “Heritage tourism” means tourism that has as its primary object the enjoyment of historic and prehistoric resources.

(c) “Political subdivision” means a county, city, village or town.

(2) In consultation with the historical society, the department shall establish, administer and coordinate state and local participation in a heritage tourism program to assist political subdivisions in assessing the resources available for heritage tourism, analyzing current interest in heritage tourism and developing and implementing plans to increase heritage tourism. The department shall do all of the following:

(b) Employ, in the state classified service, staff for the heritage tourism program.

(c) With the assistance of the committees created by the secretary under sub. (3), develop a plan establishing objectives for the heritage tourism program.

(e) Provide information and technical assistance to political subdivisions that are not located within areas selected to participate in the heritage tourism program.

(2m) (a) With the advice of the committees created by the secretary under sub. (3), the department may select, upon application, no more than 2 areas of the state in a fiscal biennium to participate in the heritage tourism program. Each area selected may consist of any part or all of one or more political subdivisions.

(b) For selecting areas of the state under par. (a), the department shall establish criteria that include at least all of the following considerations:

1. Whether an area contains a political subdivision or a non-profit organization that has an interest or experience in preserving and promoting the area's historic or prehistoric resources.

2. The compactness of an area.

3. Whether the applicant on behalf of an area has the ability to provide the match required under par. (c) 1.

4. The desirability of preserving an area's historic or prehistoric resources to promote tourism in the area.

(c) Subject to par. (d), from the appropriation under s. 20.380 (1) (bm), the department shall award a grant to the applicant on behalf of an area of the state selected under par. (a) if all of the following apply:

1. The applicant contributes cash, from a source other than the state, in an amount that equals the amount of the grant.

2. The applicant uses the grant proceeds and the matching cash contribution under subd. 1. only to promote heritage tourism within the area.

(d) The department may not award more than one grant per fiscal year to an applicant on behalf of an area under par. (c) and may not award grants to the applicant for more than 2 fiscal years. Grants awarded to an applicant under par. (c) may not exceed \$25,000 in the first fiscal year, or \$15,000 in the 2nd fiscal year, in which the applicant receives a grant.

(3) The secretary shall exercise his or her authority under s. 15.04 (1) (c) to create one or more committees to advise the department on issues related to the operation of the heritage tourism program. The secretary shall create a sufficient number of committees, as determined by the secretary, to address each major type of heritage tourism that is the focus of the heritage tourism program. The secretary shall appoint at least 2 members of each committee created under this subsection from a list of names submitted by the director of the historical society.

History: 1989 a. 237; 1993 a. 16; 1995 a. 27 s. 6923; Stats. 1995 s. 41.19; 1997 a. 27.

41.21 Marketing clearinghouse. (1) The department shall establish and maintain a marketing clearinghouse to provide marketing services to all state agencies. The department may enter into an agreement with a state agency for a specific project or to provide specific products. The department may provide consulting services to a state agency, including any of the following:

(a) Developing marketing plans.

(b) Conducting market research.

(c) Public relations services.

(d) Advertising services.

(2) The department may charge state agencies for services and products under this section to cover its cost to provide the services and products. The department of administration shall collect the charges from the state agencies and deposit the moneys from the charges in the appropriation account under s. 20.380 (1) (kc).

History: 1995 a. 27.

41.23 Sale of excess or surplus property. The department may acquire excess or surplus property from the department of administration under ss. 16.72 (4) (b) and 16.98 (1) or from the department of transportation under s. 84.09 (5s) and sell the property to any person at a price determined by the department of tourism. All proceeds received by the department of tourism from the sale of property under this section shall be credited to the appropriation account under s. 20.380 (1) (h).

History: 1997 a. 27.

SUBCHAPTER III

KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE

41.40 Kickapoo land acquisition; reserve designation.

(1) The department may acquire land from the federal government adjacent to the Kickapoo River, and may determine the boundaries of the Kickapoo valley reserve under s. 41.41 (2).

(2) The department of administration may enter into an agreement to indemnify the federal government from claims arising from or through the management and operation of the land, and any improvements on the land, transferred under sub. (1).

History: 1993 a. 349; 1995 a. 27 s. 235; Stats. 1995 s. 41.40; 1999 a. 64.

41.41 Kickapoo valley reserve. (1) DEFINITION. In this section:

(a) "Board" means the Kickapoo reserve management board.

(b) "Mining" means operations or activities for the commercial extraction from the earth of merchantable metallic or nonmetallic minerals or the exploration or prospecting for such minerals and includes operations, processes or activities related to that extraction.

(2) CREATION. There is created a Kickapoo valley reserve adjacent to the Kickapoo River, consisting of state-owned land that is acquired by the department from the federal government or acquired by the board under sub. (7) and is designated as the Kickapoo valley reserve by the department.

(3) OBJECTIVES. The board shall manage land in the Kickapoo valley reserve to preserve and enhance its unique environmental, scenic and cultural features, to provide facilities for the use and enjoyment of visitors to the reserve and to promote the reserve as a destination for vacationing and recreation.

(4) POLICY RESPONSIBILITY AND COOPERATION. (a) The board is the policy-making body responsible for the Kickapoo valley reserve.

(b) The department shall provide staff within the classified service to assist the board in performing the payroll, accounting and related management functions of the board.

(c) The department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection, the department of natural resources, the department of transportation, the department of commerce, the department of administration, the state historical society and the University of Wisconsin-Extension shall cooperate with and assist the board in matters related to its functions.

(5) BOARD DUTIES. The board shall:

(a) Appoint an executive director outside the classified service.

(b) Publish a map and description of the Kickapoo valley reserve.

(c) Manage the land in the Kickapoo valley reserve in conformity with this section.

(d) Promote to the recreational users of the Kickapoo valley reserve an appreciation of the environmental, scenic and cultural features of the reserve.

(e) Consult and cooperate with the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection, the department of natural resources, the department of transportation, the department of commerce, the department of administration, the state historical society, the University of Wisconsin-Extension, any federally recognized American Indian tribe or band in this state that appoints a liaison representative to the board regarding the management of the Kickapoo valley reserve.

(f) Seek the advice and assistance of and cooperate with local governmental units having jurisdiction of and in the vicinity of the Kickapoo valley reserve.

(g) Conduct one or more public hearings prior to trading land located in the Kickapoo valley reserve or acquiring land for the reserve.

(h) Actively solicit bids for construction, materials, supplies, equipment and contractual services required by the board from bidders located in the region surrounding the Kickapoo valley reserve.

(i) Recognize and honor preexisting highway and utility easements on land that becomes a part of the Kickapoo valley reserve or land that is acquired by the board.

(6) BOARD RESTRICTIONS. The board shall not:

(a) Sell land in the Kickapoo valley reserve.

(b) Exercise jurisdiction over land that is not a part of the Kickapoo valley reserve unless that land has been acquired by the board.

(7) BOARD POWERS. The board may:

(a) Delegate responsibility for administration of the Kickapoo valley reserve to the executive director.

(b) Lease land that is part of the Kickapoo valley reserve to any person for purposes consistent with the management of the reserve under sub. (3), or for agricultural purposes, and lease other land that is acquired by the board for any lawful purpose.

(c) Subject to approval of the governor under s. 20.914 (1), purchase a parcel of land any portion of which is approved by the department for inclusion in the Kickapoo valley reserve.

(cm) Acquire development rights in land any portion of which is approved by the department for inclusion in the Kickapoo valley reserve. Purchases under this paragraph are subject to the approval of the governor under s. 20.914 (1).

(d) Sell land that is not a part of the Kickapoo valley reserve.

(e) Subject to approval by the governor in the same manner that purchases are approved under s. 20.914 (1), trade a parcel of land that is part of the Kickapoo valley reserve for another parcel of land any portion of which is approved by the department for inclusion in the reserve if the land traded is comparable in value to the land received and any of the following applies:

1. The land received is more suitable to the purposes of the Kickapoo valley reserve than the land traded.

2. The trade serves to consolidate the land in the Kickapoo valley reserve.

3. The trade serves to settle a boundary dispute or encroachment.

(f) Authorize, license and regulate private concessions in the Kickapoo valley reserve for purposes consistent with the management of the reserve under sub. (3) and receive revenue from the concessions.

(g) Subject to ss. 13.48 (10), 16.85 (1) and 20.924 (1), plan, design, construct and maintain facilities in the Kickapoo valley reserve for purposes consistent with the management of the reserve under sub. (3).

(h) Issue orders directing compliance with this section or the rules of the board.

(i) Accept and administer gifts, grants and bequests.

(j) Charge fees for use of the land and facilities in the Kickapoo valley reserve.

(k) Promulgate rules that are applicable only to land in the Kickapoo valley reserve and other land acquired by the board, facilities on that land and waters adjacent to that land establishing restrictions on use of the land, waters and facilities.

(L) Cooperate with and provide matching funds to any non-stock, nonprofit corporation described under section 501 (c) (3) or (4) of the internal revenue code (26 USC 501 (c) 3 or (4)) and exempt from taxation under section 501 (a) of the internal revenue code (26 USC 501 (a)) that is organized to raise moneys for and provide assistance to the Kickapoo valley reserve.

(m) Raise moneys from private donors by selling memberships in the Kickapoo valley reserve or by other similar means.

(n) Grant easements for highway or utility purposes on land that is a part of the Kickapoo valley reserve or land that has been acquired by the board.

(7m) INTERIM MANAGEMENT. Notwithstanding subs. (2), (3) and (6) (a), the board may undertake interim management of land that is to be acquired from the federal government under sub. (2) prior to the transfer of the land to the state, if such interim management is approved by the federal government.

(8) ZONING. Notwithstanding ss. 13.48 (13) (a), 59.69 (4), 60.61 (2), 60.62 (1), 61.35 and 62.23 (7), the Kickapoo valley reserve is not subject to the zoning ordinance of any county or municipality, except that any ordinance enacted under s. 59.692, 61.351, 62.231 or 87.30 governing the zoning of floodplains, shorelands or wetlands in shorelands and any ordinance that is required by law under s. 59.693, 61.354 or 62.234 governing construction site erosion control or storm water management applies in the reserve.

(9) STATE NATURAL AREAS. The board shall dedicate as a state natural area under s. 23.27 any land that is a part of the Kickapoo valley reserve and any land that has been acquired by the board if the department of natural resources identifies the land as appropriate for dedication.

(10) AIDS EQUIVALENT TO PROPERTY TAXES. (a) In this section:

1. “Estimated value”, for the year following the year in which the department acquires land within the Kickapoo valley reserve or the board acquires land under sub. (7), means the full value of the land determined by the department of revenue and, for each later year, means the value that was used for calculating the aid payment under this subsection on the land for the prior year increased or decreased to reflect the annual percentage change in the equalized valuation of all real property, excluding improvements, in the taxation district in which the land is located, as determined by comparing the most recent determination of equalized valuation under s. 70.57 for all real property to the next preceding determination of equalized valuation under s. 70.57 for all real property.

2. “Taxation district” means a city, village or town, except that if a city or village lies in more than one county, “taxation district” means each portion of the city or village that lies within a separate county.

3. “Taxing jurisdiction” means any entity authorized by law to levy taxes on general property, as defined in s. 70.02, that are measured by the property’s value.

(b) Each year, the department shall ascertain from the clerk of each taxation district in which the reserve or any land acquired by the board is located the aggregate gross general property tax rate for the taxation district, exclusive of the rate that applies under s. 70.58 and without respect to the school levy tax credit under s. 79.10.

(c) 1. Except as provided in par. (d), on or before each January 31, the department shall pay to the treasurer of each taxation district specified in par. (b), with respect to all land in the Kickapoo valley reserve and all land acquired by the board on or before January 1 of the preceding year, an amount determined by multiplying the estimated value of the land equated to the average level of assessment in the taxation district by the aggregate gross general property tax rate, exclusive of the rate that applies under s. 70.58 and without respect to the school levy tax credit under s. 79.10, that would apply to the land in that taxation district for that year if it were taxable.

2. On or before February 15, the treasurer of each taxation district receiving a payment under subd. 1. shall pay to the treasurer of each taxing jurisdiction, from the amount received under subd. 1., the taxing jurisdiction’s proportionate share of the payment in lieu of the tax that would be levied on the land if it were taxable.

(d) The department shall make payments under par. (c) on January 31 of any year with respect to land that is a part of the Kickapoo valley reserve as a result of a transfer of ownership from the United States if the land is a part of the reserve on January 1 of that year. Payments under this paragraph shall be made based on the full value of the land on January 1 of that year as determined by the department of revenue.

(11) COMMERCIAL MINING FOR MINERALS PROHIBITED. No person may conduct mining on any land that is a part of the Kickapoo valley reserve or any property acquired by the board. The board shall not authorize any person to conduct mining on any such property.

(12) ENFORCEMENT; PENALTY. (a) The department shall have police supervision over the Kickapoo valley reserve, other land acquired by the board and all publicly owned rights-of-way adjacent thereto, and its duly appointed agents may arrest, with or without warrant, any person on that property committing an offense against the laws of the state or in violation of any rule of the board in force on that property, and deliver the person to circuit

court for the county where the offense is committed and make and execute a complaint charging the person with the offense committed. The district attorney of the county where the offense is committed shall appear and prosecute all actions arising under this paragraph. This paragraph does not preclude exercise of concurrent law enforcement jurisdiction in or adjacent to the reserve, or on other land acquired by the board, by any authority to whom jurisdiction is granted by law.

(b) A person who violates any provision of this section or any rule promulgated or order issued under this section may be required to forfeit not more than \$100.

History: 1993 a. 349; 1995 a. 27 ss. 279, 9116 (5); Stats. 1995 s. 41.41; 1995 a. 201, 216, 225; 1997 a. 194; 1999 a. 9.