

**1999 DRAFTING REQUEST**

**Assembly Amendment (AA-AB133)**

Received: 05/7/99

Received By: rkite

Wanted: As time permits

Identical to LRB:

For: Legislative Fiscal Bureau 266-3847

By/Representing: Kava

This file may be shown to any legislator: NO

Drafter: rkite

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Alt. Drafters:

Subject: Nat. Res. - forests and parks

Extra Copies:

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**Pre Topic:**

LFB:.....Kava -

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**Topic:**

Vehicle admission sticker for Wisconsin Dells natural area

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**Instructions:**

See Attached

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**Drafting History:**

<u>Vers.</u>	<u>Drafted</u>	<u>Reviewed</u>	<u>Typed</u>	<u>Proofed</u>	<u>Submitted</u>	<u>Jacketed</u>	<u>Required</u>
/1	rkite 05/8/99	jgeller 05/10/99	martykr 05/10/99	_____	lrb_docadmin 05/10/99		

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## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

One East Main, Suite 301 • Madison, WI 53703 • (608) 266-3847 • Fax: (608) 267-6873

May 5, 1999

Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #691

### Wisconsin Dells State Natural Area Operations (DNR -- Forests and Parks)

[LFB 1999-01 Budget Summary: Page 439, #21]

*Per Russ -  
draft alt. #2*

#### CURRENT LAW

The Bureau of Parks and Recreation in the Department of Natural Resources operates 63 recreational properties open to the public, including 40 state parks, 12 state trails, seven southern forests and four recreational areas. The main sources of revenue for the parks program are segregated revenue from parks vehicle admission, campsite and other user fees and GPR.

The Bureau of Endangered Resources in DNR protects and manages native plant and animal species and natural communities and enhances and restores populations and habitats of endangered and threatened species. The three main sources of revenue for the endangered resources program are segregated revenues from sales of the endangered resources license plate and an income tax check-off program and GPR.

Managing or assisting in the management of 326 state natural areas is one way the endangered resources program fulfills its mission. Currently, Parks manages 27 of the state's 326 natural areas, often those that border on or are near existing parks properties

#### GOVERNOR

Shift \$73,000 in 1999-00 and \$77,000 in 2000-01 and 1.0 conservation biologist position annually from the endangered resources account to the parks account of the conservation fund to reflect the transfer of management and operation of the Wisconsin Dells State Natural Area from the Bureau of Endangered Resources to the Bureau of Parks and Recreation.

#### DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Natural areas are intended to protect native plant and animal communities and other

significant natural features in the state for education, research and protection of the diversity of species in the state. They are not generally intended for more intensive recreation uses such as picnicking or camping.

2. DNR acquired the Wisconsin Dells Natural Area in September, 1994. The property has become one of the more heavily used Department properties, given its proximity to major recreational and tourist areas. The Department indicates that pressure from visitors is expected to grow even though only limited development is planned on the property (including a parking lot, restrooms and picnic tables). As a result of these factors, visitor management issues (such as trespass, entry into closed areas and water access) are expected to become more pressing in the future.

3. Given the traditional involvement of Parks in managing more heavily used properties, DNR proposed the shift of the Dells Natural Area operations to that bureau. The Bureau of Endangered Resources would assist in the management of the property, focusing more on resource-related issues. The Department indicates that management practices at the Dells would remain consistent with those of a natural area and that the completed master plan would continue to guide operations at the property. Given the current role of Parks in managing certain natural areas, the shift of management of the Dells could be viewed as consistent with current policy.

4. DNR currently does not charge a fee for entrance to the Dells property. The Department indicates that a fee (park sticker) would not be required if management of the property were shifted. The parks program depends on user fees to support nearly 60% of its operations while the endangered resources program is funded primarily through donations and GPR. Shifting management of the property to Parks, particularly for such a heavily-visited property, would increase parks account expenditures without the benefit of additional revenues.

5. This issue could be addressed in part by requiring a parks admission sticker for entry into the Dells Natural Area. The Department is unable to provide an estimate of visitation to the property given that there is no central access point to the property. Also, a number of visitors to the property enter by boat. While requiring a park sticker would not affect those who do not enter the property in a vehicle, this is similar to other park properties in that people who enter on foot, on bike or by boat also do not have to purchase a park sticker.

6. Either account under the bill has a sufficient balance to support funding for operations of the Wisconsin Dells Natural Area during the 1999-01 biennium.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation to shift \$73,000 in 1999-00 and \$77,000 in 2000-01 and 1.0 position annually from the endangered resources account to the parks account of the conservation fund to reflect the transfer of management and operation of the Wisconsin Dells State Natural Area from the Bureau of Endangered Resources to the Bureau of Parks and Recreation.

2. Approve the Governor's recommendation. In addition, require an admission sticker for motor vehicle entrance to the Wisconsin Dells Natural Area, consistent with most other Parks properties. *passed*

3. Maintain current law.

Prepared by: Russ Kava



State of Wisconsin  
1999 - 2000 LEGISLATURE

LRBb0258/1  
RNK.....

RMR

SOON

D-N

Jlg

LFB:.....Kava – Vehicle admission sticker for Wisconsin Dells natural area  
FOR 1999-01 BUDGET — NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION  
LFB AMENDMENT  
TO 1999 ASSEMBLY BILL 133 AND 1999 SENATE BILL 45

1 At the locations indicated, amend the bill as follows:

2 1. Page 502, line 2: after that line insert:

3 "SECTION 720m. 27.01 (7) (a) 3. of the statutes is amended to read:

4 27.01 (7) (a) 3. In this subsection "vehicle admission area" means the Bong area  
5 lands acquired under s. 23.09 (13), the Wisconsin Dells natural area, the Point Beach  
6 state forest, recreational areas in other state forests designated as such by the  
7 department, designated use zones within recreation areas established under s.  
8 23.091 (3), and any state park or roadside park except those specified in par. (c) 5."

History: 1971 c. 125, 215, 326; 1973 c. 90 s. 538; 1973 c. 245; 1975 c. 365 s. 62; 1977 c. 29, 71, 424; 1979 c. 34, 175; 1981 c. 20, 343; 1983 a. 19; 1983 a. 27 ss. 644 to 674, 2202 (38); 1983 a. 325; 1985 a. 29, 125; 1987 a. 27, 277, 295, 399; 1989 a. 31, 56, 213, 359; 1991 a. 39, 269; 1993 a. 16, 213; 1995 a. 27, 312, 391; 1997 a. 27, 248.

9 (END)

D N  
Russ:   
I'm reviewing this draft that Robin prepared, it occurred to me you might want a delayed effective date. Let her know if you do. MCB

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**DRAFTER'S NOTE  
FROM THE  
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU**

LRBb0258/1dn  
MGG;jlg:km

May 10, 1999

Russ:

In reviewing this draft that Robin prepared, it occurred to me you might want a delayed effective date. Let her know if you do.

Mary Gibson-Glass  
Senior Legislative Attorney  
Phone: (608) 267-3215



State of Wisconsin  
1999 - 2000 LEGISLATURE

LRBb0258/1  
RNK:jl:km

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