

Department of Planning and Budget 2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1361

House of Origin X Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Reynolds

3. Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

4. Title: State park funds

5. Summary: The bill eliminates the State Park Operated Concessions Fund and transfers money within or credited to the fund to the State Park Conservation Resources Fund. The bill makes the State Park Conservation Fund interest bearing.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates:

6b. Revenue Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2010	(\$160,000)	general fund
2011	(\$160,000)	general fund
2012	(\$160,000)	general fund
2013	(\$160,000)	general fund
2014	(\$160,000)	general fund
2015	(\$160,000)	general fund

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, the general fund resources available for appropriation on the first page of SB 850 should be reduced to reflect the general fund revenue reduction.

8. Fiscal Implications: The legislation will merge the State Park Operated Concession Fund into the State Park Conservation Resources Fund. The State Park Operated Concession Fund consists of revenue generated from state park concessions operated by the department, and it may be expended for use in operating concessions. The State Park Conservation Resources Fund is supported by entrance fees, fees from contractor-operated concessions, and civil penalties, and it may be used for conservation, development, maintenance, and operations of state parks.

According to the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the circumstances that necessitated separation of funds no longer exists. The department states that having two funds complicates budgeting and accounting. The limited authorized uses of the State Park Operated Concessions Fund prevents the department from using the fund for higher priority needs within the parks.

The legislation would make the State Park Conservation Fund interest bearing. Neither the State Park Operated Concessions Fund nor the State Park Conservation Resources Fund is currently interest bearing. Allowing nongeneral funds to retain interest earnings diverts interest earnings from the general fund. The legislation would result in an estimated revenue loss to the general fund of \$160,000 annually, based on interest earnings of 4 percent and an average balance of \$4 million in the State Park Conservation Resources Fund.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Conservation and Recreation.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 1/23/2009 dpbkbs

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cc: Secretary of Natural Resources