

1999 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 403

Offered January 20, 1999

Requesting the Department of Conservation and Recreation to study the feasibility of including Natural Chimneys and Grand Caverns Regional Parks in the state park system.

Patrons—Hanger; Delegates: Deeds, Guest, Harris, Landes, Weatherholtz and Wilkins

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, Virginia is the only state in the country to have opened an entire state park system at one time when it opened six parks covering 19,000 acres in 1936; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Conservation and Recreation is responsible for administering 29 state parks and 15 natural areas; and

WHEREAS, attendance at Virginia's state parks continues to increase, exceeding 5,000,000 visitors annually; and

WHEREAS, the state park system offers a variety of attractions, including small man-made lakes, swimming pools, beaches, and boating access; and

WHEREAS, many of these parks are named for the natural resource they feature, such as Smith Mountain Lake, Claytor Lake, Natural Tunnel and Twin Lakes State Park; and

WHEREAS, the Shenandoah Valley is the only region of the Commonwealth without a state park; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Department of Conservation and Recreation be requested to study the feasibility of including Natural Chimneys and Grand Caverns Regional Parks in the state park system.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Department of Conservation and Recreation for this study, upon request.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 2000 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

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