

SESSION OF 2004

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
HOUSE BILL NO. 2557**

As Agreed to April 1, 2004

Brief *

HB 2557 would add a new state park in Shawnee County to the list of parks designated as part of the state park system. The hours that the new park would be open to the public may be limited to those hours that the parks of Topeka are open, except that it must be opened at all hours for prescheduled events.

In addition, the bill would require the Department of Wildlife and Parks to report to the House Committee on Tourism and Parks and to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources on or before March 1, 2005, regarding the terms and conditions of the contract for the proposed donation of land to be used for the new state park.

Conference Committee Action

The House position would name the new park the "Free State State Park". The Senate position would name the new park the "Menninger Memorial State Park".

The conferees agreed to refer the new park with the temporary name of "State Park No. 24". The bill provides that the new park will be named by the Legislature at a future date.

The conferees also amended a portion of HB 2653 into HB 2557. This provision would update the fish and mussel valuation process for illegally commercialized wildlife and update a publication reference.

*Conference committee report briefs are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. No summary is prepared when the report is an agreement to disagree. The conference committee summary report may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org/klrd>

Background

Secretary of Wildlife and Parks, Mike Hayden, presented testimony before the House Committee on Tourism and Parks in support of the bill. No one testified in opposition to the bill.

The House Committee on Tourism and Parks amendment would change the name of the new park from the "Menninger State Park", to the "Free State State Park". The Committee also set the hours and conditions that the park would be open to the public.

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources amended the bill to change the name of the new state park to the Menninger Memorial State Park and to require the Department of Wildlife and Parks report to the House Tourism and Parks Committee and the Senate Natural Resources Committee on or before March 1, 2005, regarding the terms and conditions of the contract for the proposed donation of land to be used for the Menninger Memorial State Park.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of Budget on the original bill indicates that, according to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, the designation of a new state park would not have an immediate fiscal effect, although it would give rise to additional costs in future years. The fiscal note adds that the Department is not currently able to determine the amount of those costs. Although not a direct fiscal effect of the legislation, the Governor's FY 2005 recommendations include \$100,000 for acquisition and development for the park.