

No. 77

(House Joint Resolution No. 143)

A House Joint Resolution concerning

## Concessions in State Parks

FOR the purpose of requesting the [[State Departments of Natural Resources and Budget and Fiscal Planning to conduct a joint study]] Governor to appoint a commission to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of granting concessions and certain protected capital investment rights to the private sector in state parks and parkways; requiring the commission to consult with the Departments of Natural Resources, Health and Mental Hygiene, and Budget and Fiscal Planning; and providing for the commission to report to the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, One of the primary goals of the Maryland Park Service is to provide the general public with a broad range of high quality, accessible recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, Over the past several years the rate of acquisition and development of State park lands has exceeded the State's ability to properly staff and operate these lands causing many partially or fully developed parks to go unopened creating overcrowded conditions during peak periods in many recreational areas and inconveniencing the general public; and

WHEREAS, The costs of opening and operating State parks are escalating at such a rapid rate that neither the special revenues derived from charging various use fees in many areas nor the use of available general funds appears adequate to cover said costs; and

WHEREAS, The National Park Service as well as several state park systems, e.g., Washington, have found the granting of privately operated concessions, including rights of protected capital investments in facilities, both a effective and efficient solution to providing their citizens with the best possible recreational experiences; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That [[the State Departments of Budget and Fiscal Planning and Natural Resources shall]] the Governor be requested to appoint a commission to study the feasibility of initiating agreements with the private sector to provide for limited capital investment and for the operation of various concessions within Maryland State parks. The commission shall consult with the Departments of Natural Resources, Health and Mental Hygiene, and Budget and Fiscal Planning in the conduct of the study. The [[joint]] study should address itself to, but not be