



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION
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February 20, 2019

The Honorable Sharon Carson, Chairwoman
and the Executive Departments and Administration
Legislative Office Building, Room 101
Concord, NH 03301

RE: SB 234 establishing the position of director of the office of outdoor recreation industry development in the department of business and economic affairs.

Dear Chair Carson and Members of the Committee,

Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation and our support for SB 234 relative to establishing the position of director of the office of outdoor recreation industry development. The Division is very much a part of the state's outdoor recreation economy as provided for under our statutory intent (*RSA 216-A:1 Intent IV. To encourage and support tourism and related economic activity within the state*).

I was grateful to be able to participate as one of two facilitators this past fall for the New Hampshire State Caucus at The Northern Forest Regional Symposium on the Outdoor Recreation Economy. The caucus put forth a number of priorities for the state. These included: "*establishing a formal office of outdoor recreation, additive to the state park system and other recreational efforts*" and "*developing datasets to guide outdoor recreation development and investment*." This legislation would carry out those recommendations. A full list of the NH priorities is provided as an attachment.

We would emphasize the importance of coordinating outdoor recreation policy, management, and promotion among state and federal agencies and local government entities. Attached are statutes (RSA 12-B) for the Community Recreation Service in the Division of Parks and Recreation. Among other duties the Division is charged with: "*III. To co-operate with state and federal agencies, private membership groups, and with commercial recreational interests, in the promotion of recreational opportunities*." This office is very active in the NH Park and Recreation Association (NHRPA), administers our statewide volunteer program, and along with the Bureau of Trails, administers federal grants for state parks, local communities and organizations for recreational development.

We would request that the community recreation specialist in parks serve as a liaison to the office of recreational industry development to ensure coordination between the two departments and ask that this be included in the legislation. This coordination would build on our existing relationship with this department under *RSA 216-A:3-f: Promotion of Park Facilities* where the division of parks and the division of tourism are charged with working together to promote both state parks and coordinate general state tourism efforts.

February 5, 2019

Suzanne Smith, Chair, Resources, Recreation and Development Committee

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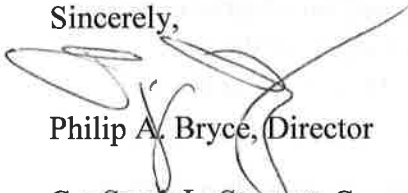
Our second request is to consider adding under II. (4) that improving motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities will be done in cooperation with the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, especially given the Bureau of Trails responsibility for overseeing the state's snowmobile and ATV trails.

Lastly, federal funding. We understand that it is not the intent under Section III. to move existing federal programs from the Division of Parks into this office. However, that is not entirely clear and would request this be reflected in the legislation.

We support this legislation as complementing the work and programs of the Division of Parks and Recreation by emphasizing the economic impact of the outdoor recreation industry, providing much needed data and information about the outdoor recreation industry in the state, and helping to secure additional resources to advance outdoor recreation for our citizens and visitors, particularly as it relates to stewardship of recreation trails both on public and private lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on **SB 234**. Please let me know if I can answer questions or provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip A. Bryce", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Philip A. Bryce, Director

Cc: Sarah L. Stewart, Commissioner

Eric Feldbaum, Community Recreation Specialist

2018 Northern Forest Outdoor Recreation Symposium: State Caucus Conclusions

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire Action Priorities

- Establish a formal office of outdoor recreation, additive to the state park system and other recreational efforts and tasked, among other things, with addressing the other items listed here. Ensure statewide input from local communities.
- Develop datasets necessary to guide outdoor recreation development and investment, including economic impact, assessment of infrastructure, cost/benefit assessments and user statistics.
- Examine potential for “pay to play” or other funding models as an ongoing revenue stream to ensure adequate resources for development and stewardship of recreational assets.
- Balance and support diverse forms of outdoor recreation and diverse user groups.

Northern Forest Priority

- Collaborate on a regional destination marketing and/or recruitment campaign that uses outdoor recreation to attract new visitors and new residents. Include a strong stewardship ethic in the messaging.
- Collectively, strive toward broad recognition that outdoor recreation is a significant community asset with economic and health benefits for all.

Challenge to the Region

- Creation of a regional Outdoor Recreation dataset as a foundation to include and sustain the entire region.

CHAPTER 12-B
COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICE

Section 12-B:1

12-B:1 Purpose and Definition. – The purpose of this chapter shall be to provide, upon request, to the municipalities and other political subdivisions of the state and to non-governmental organizations, assistance in the development of wholesome and adequate recreation, and recreation, for the purpose of this chapter, is defined to mean those activities and interests which provide a diversification of occupation and which aid in promoting worthy use of leisure time, pursuit of happiness, satisfaction, recreative enjoyment, fullness of life, relaxation, instruction and education, physical and mental health, and cultural developments and experiences of a leisure-time nature.

12-B:3 Duties. –

It shall be the duty of the director of community recreation:

- I. To provide guidance to local communities, on request, in establishing, organizing, promoting, conducting, and financing recreation programs.
- II. To provide suggestions to local communities, on request, on facility development, in-service training of employees, utilization of local and state resource material and personnel.
- III. To co-operate with state and federal agencies, private membership groups, and with commercial recreational interests, in the promotion of recreational opportunities.
- IV. To make available suggestions whereby the various service and civic groups in the state can provide recreation services and donations to recreation projects on a sound and coordinated basis.
- V. To encourage local communities to provide for appropriate recreation for the ill and disabled.
- VI. To provide suggestions whereby our senior citizens can live a meaningful life and utilize their skills and talents for the benefit of the community and themselves.
- VII. To study and appraise recreational needs of the state and to assemble and disseminate information relative to recreation.
- VIII. To aid in recruiting, training, and placing recreation workers, and promote recreation institutes and conferences.
- IX. To establish and promote recreational standards.
- X. To submit an annual report of his activities.

Source. 1965, 259:1. 1990, 140:2, X, eff. June 18, 1990.

