



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES  
**DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION**  
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February 5, 2019

The Honorable Cathryn Harvey  
and the Fish and Game and Marine Resources Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 307  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 640 establishing a registration fee for canoes and kayaks.**

Dear Chairwoman Harvey and Members of the Committee,

Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation regarding HB 640 establishing a registration fee for canoes and kayaks. **The Division opposes HB 640 as written, for the following reasons.**

The State Park System in New Hampshire is operationally self-funded, one of the only such systems in the country. RSA 216-A:g, Fees for Park System states that "The general court does not intend that all park facilities be self-supporting." Funding for the administrative cost of operating the entire park system, and to operate parks that do not generate any revenue or do not generate enough revenue to cover operating costs, are all covered by the parks which generate a surplus of revenue over cost. In fact, of the 93 parks in the system, less than half generate revenue; and, of those that do generate revenue, approximately half generate positive revenue to support the rest of the entire parks system. The other half lose money.

The Division currently has a fleet of 250 canoes and kayaks that it rents to state park visitors. This bill would require the Division to payout \$1,750 to register its canoes and kayaks after retaining the processing credits. To meet the growing demand for boat rentals at state parks, we also anticipate expanding the fleet in the future which would lead to additional costs.

As an operationally self-funded agency, it is important that the Division retain all revenue it earns. We hope this Committee considers amending HB 640 to exempt the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **in opposition of HB 640, as currently written.** Please let me know if I can answer questions or provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Philip A. Bryce, Director

Cc: Sarah L. Stewart, Commissioner

**DNCR Division of Parks and Recreation  
 HB 640 An act establishing a registration fee for canoes and kayaks. (2019 Session)**

Fleet	#	Regis Fee	Annual Cost	minus	\$3 retained by agent	Adj Annual Cost
Current	250 x \$	10 = \$	2,500	-	\$ 750 =	\$ 1,750
Projected	500 x \$	10 = \$	5,000	-	\$ 1,500 =	\$ 3,500

1/31/2019

**SB 410 An act establishing a registration fee for canoes and kayaks. (2018 Session)**

Fleet	#	Regis Fee	Annual Cost	minus	Commission retained by agent	Adj Annual Cost
Current	250 x \$	10 = \$	2,500	-	\$ 750 =	\$ 1,750
Projected	500 x \$	10 = \$	5,000	-	\$ 1,500 =	\$ 3,500

- NOTES: 1) There has not been a NHFG rescue event involving a patron using a Parks-owned canoe/kayak rental.  
 2) If there were an incident involving a patron using a Parks-owned canoe/kayak rental, Parks staff would be the first responders.

Date: 01/02/2018