

**NEW JERSEY RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

In lieu of a full meeting, committee leadership met by Zoom to review just four bills.

Present: Bill Foelsch, Rick Wright, Kat Avitt, Tim Roetman, Denise Lanza

Legislative Update: Rick providing information on the status of the Recreation Administrator certification bill. He has worked with legislative staff to ensure that requests are made to put the bill on the agenda. However, there are no meetings scheduled until late September or early October. There has still not been an announcement of the Assembly bill.

Rick stated that much of the focus this fall will be on State liquor laws, particularly regarding local licenses. It is a contentious discussion. Denise suggested that perhaps while reviewing and revising liquor laws there may be an opportunity to reduce the cumbersome process for non-profits and local government to serve alcohol at fundraisers or host publicly rented events at facilities. Since there cannot be two topics within one bill, she will work with Rick and other nonprofits to review current law for possible revisions which would then be brought to a representative for consideration.

S2967: Prohibits Fish and Game Council and Division of Fish and Wildlife from requiring, for deer management plans, written consent of private landowners located in, or within 2000 feet of, a deer management area. **Drop**

S2968: Requires grants to local government units to cover total cost of forest stewardship plans; provides for allocation of funding from "Global Warming Solutions Fund". Recognizing that the current allocations of \$1500 to a maximum \$2500 would be very inadequate to cover costs, members questioned the funding stream of the "Fund" and the potential funds available if 10% of those funds are provided for the planning grants. Plans are required to have a multitude of forest elements reviewed. **Monitor**, seek additional info.

S2969: Requires DEP to reimburse local units for costs incurred in responding to emergencies in State parks and forests. Denise stated concerns that if approved this would eventually apply to county parks as well. NJRPA filed opposition to this proposal in 2017. Continue to **Oppose**.

SR98: The resolution opposes changing the designation of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to a National Park and Preserve, and opposes certain parts of the NPS's Vision 2030 for the Delaware Water Gap NRA. Results of the change could have negative implications to the environment of the area as well as it's semi-rural character. It was thought that positive impact could include additional funds, staff, and resource protections. **Monitor**

Summer Camp Regulations: Bill noted that the summer was quiet in regards to aquatics regulations. The cap regulations expire and there has been no information coming from NJ DOH. We will continue to monitor the situation and ensure participation as possible.

NEXT MEETING: an interim meeting will be scheduled prior to the regularly scheduled November committee meeting if the need arises.