

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS**

**March 7, 1997 Hearing Room E**

**2:00 P.M. Tapes 9 - 10**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Rep. Mark Simmons, Chair**

**Rep. Michael Fahey, Vice-Chair**

**Rep. Mike Lehman**

**Rep. Leslie Lewis**

**Rep. Jim Welsh**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

**Pat Zwick, Policy Analyst**

**Marjorie Taylor, Administrative Support**

**MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:**

**HB 2378 Work Session**

**HB 2772 Public Hearing**

**These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.**

<b>Tape/#</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>TAPE 9, A</b>		
001	Chair Simmons	Calls the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. and opens the work session on HB 2378.
<b><u>HB 2378 WORK SESSION</u></b>		
004	Pat Zwick	Policy Analyst, updates the status of HB 2378 since the public hearing on 2/28/97. Indicates that the bill sponsor has proposed -1 amendments and Bob Meinen, Director, State Parks has also proposed amendments.
018	Rep. Thompson	State Representative, indicates that he is trying to understand the amendments proposed by the Director of State Parks ( <b>EXHIBIT A</b> ).

024	Rep. Thompson	Provides an explanation of the -1 amendments that he proposed.
034	Chair Simmons	Suggests investigating the amendments proposed by Parks and Rep. Thompson one at a time.
040	Rep. Thompson	Requests that Bob Meinen explain his proposed amendments.
045	Bob Meinen	Director, Oregon State Parks and Recreation. Indicates that the amendments aim directly at beach access sites. The amendments refine the bill's purpose to minimize the maintenance and management of 69 beach access sites and make them available to the public at their own risk. Property would be removed and signage displayed indicating that the public could use the properties and access points at their own risk. States that the amendments also include clarification for why the sites are not operated by the Parks Department and clarification of language related to equivalent access <b>(EXHIBIT B)</b> .
102	Rep. Lehman	Asks if, procedurally, HB 2378 can be passed out of subcommittee with -1 amendments and add Parks amendments in full committee.
111	Zwick	Indicates that the subcommittee can adopt amendments conceptually and pass them to the full committee, but traditionally, subcommittees do the work on a bill so that it can move faster through full committee. Suggests scheduling options for HB 2378.
122	Rep. Lewis	Suggests another option for working on HB 2378 and requests more time to work on the bill.
131	Chair Simmons	Agrees with Rep. Lewis
134	Rep. Thompson	Expresses the desire to have time to look at and work on the amendments to HB 2378.
145	Chair Simmons	Agrees to look at -1 and proposed amendments and bring HB 2378 back to subcommittee at a later date. Closes the work session on HB 2378 and opens the public hearing on HB 2772.
<b><u>HB 2772</u></b> <b><u>PUBLIC</u></b> <b><u>HEARING</u></b>		
169	Rep. Roger Beyer	State Representative, Explains the provisions of HB 2772. Indicates that the higher non-resident fee for access to state parks would apply to overnight use not day use. States that a non-resident user would have an increased fee equal to that of the portion from the state general fund. Indicates that the Parks Department will say that this concept has been tried and it didn't work, but it was tried with a different fee structure <b>(EXHIBIT C)</b> .
212	Rep. Beyer	Explains that HB 2772 was brought forward because residents must often wait in long lines of non-residents to use the parks. Believes that if parks are overcrowded and underfunded then Oregonians should use them first.

265	Rep. Fahey	Expresses support for HB 2772. Indicates that SB 581, which he and Sen. Wilde introduced is very similar to HB 2772.
280	Rep. Beyer	Explains that Oregonians must pay sales tax in other states, so their residents can pay a little more in Oregon parks.
287	Chair Simmons	Asks about leaving park prices as they are for non-residents and decreasing park fees for state residents.
295	Rep. Beyer	Agrees that is a good idea since it won't "penalize" out of state residents and give "credit" to in-state users.
310	Rep. VanLeeuwen	State Representative, Expresses support for HB 2772. Many constituents and other residents have concerns about long waits and lack of space at the state parks because of non-resident visitors. Indicates that Oregon has more parks and they are of much better quality than other states. Verifies that Rep. Fahey's bill is SB 581.
368	Gerald George	Resident, Gresham. Expresses support for HB 2772. Explains written testimony and suggests that a differential fee be introduced that is no greater than the minimum sales tax of a neighboring state. The fee could be used to lower resident camping fees or increase the non-resident fees. Suggests that HB 2772 include an amendment about the differential fee <b>(EXHIBIT D)</b> .
<b>TAPE 10, A</b>		
018	Dell Isham	Representative, Oregon Association of Convention and Visitor Bureaus. States that the concept of HB 2772 is not a new issue and expresses strong opposition to the bill. Non-residents should not be discriminated against because it would be harmful to the park system and the state's image. Speaks of unanimous opposition to the proposed legislation. The varying fee structure was tried in the late 1970's and 80's but it failed since other states imposed higher fees for Oregonians, the parks were boycotted, and there was much bad publicity. Revenue and the number of campers declined in private and public parks <b>(EXHIBIT E)</b> .
073	Rep. Fahey	Asks if Mr. Isham has traveled to Hawaii.
074	Isham	Answers affirmatively.
075	Rep. Fahey	Asks if Mr. Isham is familiar with the Hawaiian policy of charging residents a lower rate for everything from hotels to rental cars.
080	Isham	No.
085	Rep. Fahey	Indicates that the difference between resident and non-resident charges is significant. Asks for suggestions on how to support the parks and provide better services for Oregonians.
087	Isham	States that the Convention and Visitor Bureaus want to keep the parks open, enhance them, and create more parks.
094	Rep. Fahey	Says that he wouldn't mind if priority for reservations was given to Oregon residents.
109	Rep. Lewis	States that there are differential rates elsewhere in other systems such as city and county libraries. Wonders if it would be possible to make the increased fee sound like it isn't related to residency such as a member/

		non-member mechanism.
133	Isham	Suggests that if a programs appears to discriminate, the public will react negatively. At one time, Oregon was accused of not wanting visitors, but that isn't true today.
183	Todd Davidson	Executive Director, Oregon Tourism Commission. Offers to testify at a later date.
188	Chair Simmons	Adjourns the public hearing on HB 2772 and meeting at 2:58 p.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Marjorie Taylor, Pat Zwick,

Administrative Support Policy Analyst

**EXHIBIT SUMMARY**

**A - HB 2378, -1 amendments, Rep. Thompson, 1 p.**

**B - HB 2378, Proposed amendments, Bob Meinen, 1 p.**

**C - HB 2772, Written materials, Rep. R. Beyer, 2 pp.**

**D - HB 2772, Written testimony, Gerald George, 2 pp.**

**E - HB 2772, Written testimony, Dell Isham, 2 pp.**