

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 55

By Lamberth

A RESOLUTION to recommend the designation of the Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail as a State scenic and recreational trail.

WHEREAS, in 1971, the General Assembly enacted the Tennessee Trails System Act (the "Act"), to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of a growing population and to promote public access to and enjoyment of the natural areas of the State; and

WHEREAS, the Act establishes a State system of scenic and recreation trails and prescribes the methods and standards by which additional components may be added to the system; and

WHEREAS, the Act prescribes that State scenic trails should be extended trails that provide maximum potential for the appreciation of natural areas and for the conservation and enjoyment of the significant scenic, historic, natural, ecological, geological, or cultural qualities of the areas through which such trails pass; and

WHEREAS, the Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail was designated as an initial component of the Tennessee Trails System in 1971 and now traverses eleven counties, running approximately from the Tennessee State line near Marion and Hamilton counties to the Cumberland Gap, following the scenic mountains, gorges, and escarpments of the Cumberland Plateau; and

WHEREAS, the Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail was revived through the leadership of Justin P. Wilson in 1998, and the Justin P. Wilson Cumberland Trail State Park was named in his honor in 2021; and

WHEREAS, completing the Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail by December of 2023 is a top priority of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (the "Department"); and

WHEREAS, before locating routes of State scenic trails such as the Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail, the Department must select a route that is compatible with preservation or enhancement of the environment it traverses; and

WHEREAS, the Department must also publish notice of the selected route in a newspaper of general circulation in the area in which the trail is located, together with appropriate maps and descriptions; and

WHEREAS, the Department's publication must occur prior to the recommendation of the route by the Department to the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, such publication occurred in January, 2023; and

WHEREAS, to continue the process of setting the route of the Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail as required by the Act, the Department respectfully submits this route for consideration by the members of the General Assembly in order to satisfy the requirements of the Act and to facilitate the eventual completion of the Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that upon the recommendation of David W. Salyers, Commissioner of Environment and Conservation, the route of the Cumberland Trail State Scenic Trail attached to this resolution is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to

the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.