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ROSCOMMON COUNTY CONVEYANCE

House Bill 4840 as introduced First Analysis (6-17-97)

Sponsor: Rep. John Gernaat
Committee: Regulatory Affairs

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

According to information supplied by the Department of Natural Resources, officials of the Roscommon Metropolitan Recreational Authority (RMRA) contacted the department in 1996 concerning the availability of state-owned land in Higgins Township in Roscommon County. The land in question is about 10 acres in size and is located approximately one mile from the Roscommon town hall. The land was accepted originally as a gift and had been held pending resale for benefit of the Hartwick Pines State Park. The RMRA has expressed an interest to manage the parcel as a natural area complete with nature trails, and to use an existing residence on the property as an interpretive center. Legislation has been proposed to convey the property to Roscommon County.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would authorize the Department of Natural Resources to convey a parcel of state-owned land in Roscommon County to the Roscommon Metropolitan Recreational Authority for \$1.00. The conveyance would be by quitclaim deed approved by the attorney general and the state would retain the mineral rights to the property (sand, gravel, clay, and nonmetallic minerals would be excluded.) Revenue received under the bill would have to be deposited in the treasury and credited to the general fund. The land would have to be used exclusively for public recreational purposes and would revert to state ownership if used for any other purpose. The attorney general could bring an action to regain possession of the property if the grantee were to dispute the reverter provision.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

According to a representative from the Department of Natural Resources, the fiscal impact of the conveyance would be negligible. (6-13-97)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

Reportedly, the land in question was originally donated to the state for use as a nature center. The plans by the Roscommon Metropolitan Recreational Authority (RMRA) to develop nature trails and to use a former residence as an interpretive center would fulfill the wishes of the donor. According to the Department of Natural Resources, the RMRA's plans are well thought out and would benefit the community. Further, should the land be used for any purpose other than for public use, it would revert to state ownership again.

POSITIONS:

The Department of Natural Resources supports the bill. (6-13-97)

Analyst: S. Stutzky

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

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