

HOUSE BILL 22

By Harwell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 11, Chapter 3, relative to the "Justin P. Wilson - Cumberland Trail State Park".

WHEREAS, the creation of the Cumberland State Scenic Trail initially began in the 1970s, and by 1990, less than half of the Cumberland Trail was complete due to environmental conflicts and budget constraints; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, department of environment and conservation Commissioner Justin P. Wilson began to identify new opportunities for local and state greenways and trails through a new state recreation plan, including the completion of the Cumberland Trail; and

WHEREAS, through the outstanding leadership of Justin P. Wilson, the funding and vision to complete the Cumberland Trail was put in place; and

WHEREAS, on June 22, 1998, the State announced the creation of the Cumberland Trail State Park, Tennessee's 53rd State Park and the only state park of its kind at that time, becoming the first link in the state-developed regional trail system, much like its federal counterpart, the Appalachian Trail; and

WHEREAS, by Executive Order No. 33 of 2002, the Cumberland Trail State Park was designated as the "Justin P. Wilson - Cumberland Trail State Park", in recognition of Justin P. Wilson's efforts to secure funding necessary to acquire Cumberland Trail lands; and

WHEREAS, to date, the Justin P. Wilson - Cumberland Trail State Park includes 185 miles of completed trail and encompasses 7,250 acres of land; and

WHEREAS, upon completion, the Park and its associated loops and connector trails to other state and local parks will exceed 300 miles, cutting through 10 Tennessee counties from the Cumberland Gap National Historic Park on the Tennessee-Virginia-Kentucky border to Signal Point near Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, the Justin P. Wilson - Cumberland Trail State Park has been recognized as "a visionary way of thinking"; and

WHEREAS, in realizing this goal, Tennessee had in Justin P. Wilson a uniquely dedicated, aggressive and intelligent leader for identifying and securing scarce funding to acquire Cumberland Trail lands; Justin P. Wilson remained true to his political and philosophical beliefs in achieving this great endeavor and in so doing inspired others with his unique dedication to principle and integrity; and

WHEREAS, a permanent legacy should be created for the Wilson family ancestors and the citizens of Tennessee to honor a legacy of true public service to the people of Tennessee and dedication and quality of service beyond the call of duty; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 11-3-103, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

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(1) As provided in Executive Order No. 33 of 2002, the Cumberland Trail State Park shall be known as the "Justin P. Wilson - Cumberland Trail State Park".

(2) The appropriate state departments shall maintain suitable markers and affix suitable signs designating such park as the "Justin P. Wilson - Cumberland Trail State Park".

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.