

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

CS/CS/SB 920 — Liability of Persons Providing Areas for Public Outdoor Recreational Purposes

by Rules Committee; Environment and Natural Resources Committee; and Senator Bradley

The bill authorizes a property owner who makes areas available to the public for outdoor recreational purposes to derive revenue from concessions or special events within the area and still retain the statutory liability protection, if such revenue is used exclusively to maintain, manage, and improve the outdoor recreational area.

The bill expands the definition of “outdoor recreational purposes” to include “traversing or crossing for the purpose of ingress and egress to and from, and access to and from, public lands or lands owned or leased by a state agency which are used for outdoor recreational purposes.” This expanded definition applies for owners and lessees eligible for the general statutory liability protection and for owners who enter into a written agreement with a state agency.

The bill defines “state agency” to mean “the state or any governmental or public entity created by law.” This expands the governmental entities with which property owners may enter into a written agreement concerning an area used for outdoor recreational purposes.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2021.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 118-0