

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

SB 5527

Parks and Recreation Department

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Pham

SB 5527 is the budget bill for the Parks and Recreation Department. The all-funds budget of \$353 million for the agency represents an increase of 8.7 percent from the legislatively approved budget in the 2021-23 biennium. This increase is predominately accounted for by the addition of \$9 million General Fund for debt service payments on capital improvement bonds that were issued in the prior biennium and increased Lottery Funds expenditure limitation for local grants due to the reallocation of 13 percent of 2021-23 biennium Lottery Fund revenues, roughly \$17.7 million, from agency operations to the local grants program.

Additional adjustments were made for extraordinary inflation on specific expenditure categories, increased budgeted hours for seasonal park rangers to match increased park visitation, the carry-forward of grant awards from the prior biennium, and increased federal and state grant funding in the upcoming biennium. Additional investments are made in capital improvement projects and the implementation of an updated reservation system.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends SB 5527 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.