



SB23-267

SHORT TITLE: Chatfield State Park Water Quality Fee

LONG TITLE: Concerning a water quality fee to be paid for admission to Chatfield State Park, and, in connection therewith, requiring the division of parks and wildlife to collect the fee and transfer the amount of the fee to the Chatfield Watershed Authority

SPONSORS: Senators Van Winkle and Cutter/Representatives Titone and Bradley

COMMITTEES: Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

PURPOSE OF THE BILL: To charge and collect a fee from users of Chatfield State Park to be used for regional watershed protection.

PROPOSERS OF THE BILL: Chatfield Watershed Authority. Douglas County?

POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS: Individuals who recreate at Chatfield State Park, entities that depend on the water in Chatfield.

BACKGROUND: The Chatfield reservoir serves a regional area of multiple counties for flood control and as a water source. Recreational use is high, and impacts water quality. Funding is needed to protect water quality and meet total maximum daily loads limits (TMDLs).

Is this bill necessary this year? There is no deadline.

How does the bill change current law? It adds \$1 to the daily use fee to enter the park and \$3 additional for annual parks pass.

Does the bill affect the prior appropriations system? No

How is the bill implemented? The fee is collected daily at the park; with annual passes assessed the fee once annually. Every three months the money is remitted, less three percent for administration, to the Chatfield Watershed Authority. The Authority must use the money for a regional, coordinated approach to watershed protection from phosphorus and other non-point source pollution.

Practical considerations: The fee is repealed after five years. Will the need terminate, or will the fee need to be extended beyond 2029?

Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal note.