

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## HB 1615

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Natural Resources & Parks, April 4, 1997

**Title:** An act relating to offenses committed in state parks or parkways.

**Brief Description:** Changing provisions relating to offenses committed in state parks or parkways.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Alexander, Regala and Sump; by request of Parks and Recreation Commission.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Natural Resources & Parks: 4/4/97 [DP].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Oke, Chair; Rossi, Vice Chair; Hargrove, Jacobsen, Morton, Prentice, Roach, Snyder, Spanel, Stevens and Swecker.

**Staff:** Vic Moon (786-7469)

**Background:** It is unlawful to cut, break, injure, destroy, or take vegetation or natural objects within a state park. The Parks and Recreation Commission does not have authority to adopt rules to grant exemptions to this law. Berry-picking, environmental education classes, and scientific studies are examples of activities that should have an exemption.

**Summary of Bill:** The commission is authorized to adopt rules allowing exemptions to the law which prohibits cutting, breaking, or taking of vegetation or natural objects in state parks.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** This is the same as SB 5138, which has passed the Senate. It gives the Parks and Recreation Commission authority to allow some items to be taken from parks.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Rep. Gary Alexander.