

Section 4 (2) would authorize the Board to establish fees and permits for access to trails, parking, park lodging facilities and admission to events. The BIDA would be required to keep and use the revenue for purposes consistent with the purposes of the Act.

Section 5 would establish that revenue bonds and revenue refunding bonds issued by the authority would not be debt of the Commonwealth or of Pulaski County, Somerset, or Burnside or any political subdivision. The bonds would be payable solely from the revenues resulting from the issuance of bonds or assets of the authority.

Section 7 would amend KRS 132.195 to exempt from taxation an interest in property or facilities developed, acquired, or leased under the Act.

HB 683 GA would have an indeterminable but moderate to significant positive fiscal impact on local governments in the region. The fiscal impact of HB 683 GA on local governments is unchanged from the bill as introduced. According to the website of the Kentucky Association of Counties, Kentucky’s state parks have a significant financial impact on counties. The state parks funnel millions of dollars into the local economy and support thousands of jobs statewide. The website quotes a 2015 study finding that the state park system had an \$889 million annual economic impact in Kentucky.

In a report published by the National Recreation and Park Association the authors considered the impact of local park and recreation agency spending on state economies in 2021, and found the following impacts in Kentucky:

Impact of Local Park and Recreation Agency Spending on State Economies – 2021:

	<u>Jobs</u>	<u>Labor Income</u>	<u>Value added</u>	<u>Output</u>
Kentucky	5,057	\$192,529,258	\$267,231,646	\$772,561,017

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF PARKS, nrpa.org, 2023.

Increased visitor traffic and tourism-related spending would result in additional revenue for local governments through tourism taxes, higher property values, and occupational tax collections. In 2024, Pulaski County had a 1% occupational tax rate, and surrounding counties had similar rates. The Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) reported in 2023 that Burnside did not have an occupational tax, whereas Somerset had a 0.60% payroll tax. The fiscal impact of HB 683 GA would likely vary within the region, with the City of Burnside, Pulaski County, and the City of Somerset experiencing the most direct economic effects.

Increased visitor traffic could result in local governments seeing increased costs related to infrastructure improvements and public safety. However, these costs may be offset by increased revenue from tourism, property appreciation, and occupational tax collections.

Data Source(s): Kentucky Association of Counties; Kentucky Tourism, Arts and JHeritage Cabinet; LRC staff

Preparer: MS **Reviewer:** AS (MDA) **Date:** 3/18/26