

1       **AN ACT** *to create* 15.347 (20) and 23.177 of the statutes; **relating to:** creating a  
2           nonmotorized recreation and transportation trails council.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PREFATORY NOTE:** This bill draft was prepared for the Joint Legislative Council’s Special Committee on Enhancing Recreational Trails for Non–Motorized Use.

The draft creates the Nonmotorized Recreation and Transportation Trails Council in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The draft requires the governor to appoint and determine the number of members on the council. In appointing the members, the draft directs the governor to seek geographic diversity in the membership and to consider appointing members from statutorily specified categories. These categories include, but are not limited to: water trails, pedestrian travel, bicycle commuters, equestrian trail riding, long–distance hiking, nature–based activities (e.g., bird watching, nature study, hunting, fishing), snow sports (e.g., cross–country skiing and snowshoeing), bicycling, local forests and parks, trail accessibility, tourism promotion, and tribal lands.

The council is directed to carry out studies and make recommendations to the legislature, governor, DNR, and Department of Transportation (DOT) on all matters related to nonmotorized recreation transportation and trails, including matters relating to the categories specified above and other related categories and issues. The DNR and DOT must seek the advice of and consult with the council regarding the planning, acquisition, development, maintenance, and management of these trails.

3           **SECTION 1.** 15.347 (20) of the statutes is created to read:

4           15.347 (20) NONMOTORIZED RECREATION AND TRANSPORTATION TRAILS COUNCIL. (a)

5           There is created in the department of natural resources a nonmotorized recreation and  
6           transportation trails council.

7           (b) In appointing the members of the council, the governor shall seek geographic  
8           diversity in the membership. The governor shall appoint members who personally undertake

1 nonmotorized trail activities or who participate in organizations that own, maintain, or  
2 promote nonmotorized trails and nonmotorized trail activities. The governor shall choose  
3 members who represent as many as possible of the following nonmotorized trails and trail  
4 activities or interests, or any other nonmotorized trails and trail activities or interests identified  
5 by the governor:

- 6 1. Water trails.
- 7 2. Pedestrian travel.
- 8 3. Horseback riding and buggy driving.
- 9 4. Long-distance hiking.
- 10 5. Nature-based activities, such as bird watching, nature study, hunting, and fishing.
- 11 6. Snow sports.
- 12 7. Bicycling of all forms, including trail riding, mountain biking, commuting, and  
13 long-distance bicycling.
- 14 8. Local forests or parks.
- 15 9. Providing for and improving trail accessibility.
- 16 10. Tourism promotion.
- 17 11. Tribal lands.

18 (b) If any member of the council is unable to attend a meeting of the council, the  
19 secretary of natural resources may appoint an alternate for that meeting to ensure that the full  
20 range of nonmotorized trails and activities is represented at the meeting.

**NOTE:** Creates the Nonmotorized Recreation and Transportation Trails Council in the DNR. The governor is required to appoint, and determine the number of, members on the council. In appointing the members, the governor must seek geographic diversity in the membership and must consider appointing members from statutorily specified categories, or other categories identified by the governor.

1           **SECTION 2.** 23.177 of the statutes is created to read:

2           **23.177 Nonmotorized Recreation and Transportation Trails Council. (1) DUTIES**  
3           **OF COUNCIL.** The nonmotorized recreation and transportation trails council shall carry out  
4           studies and make recommendations to the legislature, governor, department of natural  
5           resources, and department of transportation on all matters related to nonmotorized recreation  
6           and transportation trails, including matters relating to trails and trail uses identified in s.  
7           15.347 (20).

8           **(2) DUTIES OF DEPARTMENTS OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND TRANSPORTATION.**

9           (a) The department of natural resources and department of transportation shall seek the  
10          advice of and consult with the council regarding the planning, acquisition, development,  
11          maintenance, and management of nonmotorized recreation and transportation trails.

12          (b) The department shall maintain a Web site where a person may locate information  
13          about the council, including all meeting notices and agendas.

14          (c) The department shall prepare written minutes of each meeting of the council and  
15          shall make them available on the council's Web site.

**NOTE:** Directs the Nonmotorized Recreation and Transportation Trails Council, which is created in this draft, to carry out studies and make recommendations to the legislature, governor, DNR, and DOT on all matters related to nonmotorized recreation and transportation trails, including matters relating to the categories specified in s. 15.347 (20), created in this draft, and other related categories and issues. The DNR and DOT must seek the advice of and consult with the council regarding the planning, acquisition, development, maintenance, and management of these trails. The DNR is required to maintain a Web site where a person may locate information relating to the council.

16

(END)