

By Staff report

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## Illinois State Museum to reopen July 2 if \$5 admission fee gets approval

The Illinois State Museum will reopen Saturday, July 2, pending approval of a rule to charge an admission fee.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources announced the news Tuesday afternoon.

The rule change is on the agenda for the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) meeting to be held June 14.

Initially, the Illinois State Museum in Springfield, Dickson Mounds Museum near Lewistown and the Research and Collections Center in Springfield will officially open July 2. The Illinois State Museum must be opened for 1,000 hours in 2016 to receive accreditation.

The DNR is working to secure partnerships that would allow other branches to open in the future.

“IDNR has been working steadily through the JCAR process to establish the administrative rule to set an admission fee,” DNR director Wayne Rosenthal said in a statement. “By setting the admission fee, working closely with the Illinois State Museum Board and Illinois State Museum Society, we feel we are setting the museum on a more sustainable path for the future.”

The administrative rule authorizes DNR to establish a \$5 adult admission fee at the Springfield campus. Children under 18, seniors and veterans will be admitted free.

State Sen. Andy Manar, D-Bunker Hill, said Tuesday there's no reason the museum can't reopen immediately.

“Employees are reporting to work, the lights are on, taxpayers are paying for electricity,” Manar said. “All of the operations are ongoing today at the museum, as they have been for years.”

This story will be updated.



The Alan J. Dixon Building, home of the Illinois State Museum in Springfield. Rich Saal/The State Journal-Register