



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

***Raised Bill No. 5369***

LCO No. 1730



Referred to Committee on PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS

Introduced by:  
(PRI)

***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING CERTAIN FISCAL AND RESOURCE-RELATED MATTERS PERTAINING TO STATE PARKS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 23-10b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

3 The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may  
4 provide outdoor recreation-related services to the public at state park  
5 and forest recreation areas. Such services may include rentals of  
6 bicycles, boats, cabins and tents, sale of firewood and operation of  
7 camp stores supplying camping necessities. Fees for such services  
8 shall be set by the commissioner, according to market value. Revenue  
9 from such services shall be deposited in the Conservation Fund and  
10 credited to an enterprise program account for use in the state park and  
11 forest facilities, except the commissioner, in accordance with section  
12 23-15b, as amended by this act, may allocate a portion of such revenue

13 from the rental of any cabin for deposit in the maintenance, repair and  
14 improvement subaccount for the state park where such cabin is  
15 located. Such services and fees shall not affect admission, parking,  
16 camping and related existing fees. No services shall compete with a  
17 concessionaire under contract with the Department of Energy and  
18 Environmental Protection at the time such service is offered.

19 Sec. 2. Section 23-15b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
20 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

21 (a) There is established a separate, nonlapsing account within the  
22 General Fund, known as the maintenance, repair and improvement  
23 account. All funds collected from rent paid by any person for the use  
24 of state park property for any special event of limited duration,  
25 including, but not limited to, weddings and receptions, shall be  
26 deposited into the account unless the Commissioner of Energy and  
27 Environmental Protection enters into a written agreement, signs an  
28 instrument or issues a license which specifically states otherwise. Said  
29 account may also receive funds from private or public sources,  
30 including the federal government or a municipal government.

31 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any  
32 funds received by the Department of Energy and Environmental  
33 Protection pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be deposited  
34 in the General Fund and credited to the maintenance, repair and  
35 improvement account. Within said account there shall be a subaccount  
36 for each state park from which funds are collected pursuant to  
37 subsection (a) of this section and for each state park in which any cabin  
38 is located, which subaccounts shall be held separate and apart from  
39 each other. The commissioner shall deposit in the applicable  
40 subaccount any revenue from the rental of cabins that the  
41 commissioner allocates pursuant to section 23-10b, as amended by this  
42 act. Each subaccount shall be available to the Commissioner of Energy  
43 and Environmental Protection for maintaining, making improvements  
44 to, erecting structures on or repairing the property, including houses

45 and other buildings, of the state park for which such subaccount was  
46 established, provided any revenues in such subaccounts from the  
47 rental of cabins shall be used for the purpose of maintaining any cabin  
48 that is located in the park for which such subaccount was created.  
49 Nothing in this section shall prevent the commissioner from obtaining  
50 or using funds from sources other than the maintenance, repair and  
51 improvement account for the purposes described in this subsection.  
52 Funds in the maintenance, repair and improvement account shall be  
53 used to supplement state funds appropriated for the general operation  
54 of state parks and shall not replace such appropriated funds for  
55 purposes of such general operation.

56 (c) On or before October 1, 2010, and semiannually thereafter, the  
57 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall report to  
58 the Office of Fiscal Analysis on the state parks for which funds have  
59 been collected pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Such report  
60 shall include (1) the amount of funds received into the maintenance,  
61 repair and improvement account, itemized by subaccount, (2) the  
62 amount of funds the Department of Energy and Environmental  
63 Protection has expended from the account for each park, and (3) the  
64 projects for which such funds have been expended. Said commissioner  
65 shall post the same information on the department's Internet web site.

66 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) Not later than February 1, 2020,  
67 the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation within the Department of Energy  
68 and Environmental Protection shall conduct a review of each state  
69 park. Such review shall include, but not be limited to: (1) An  
70 assessment of the condition of such park, (2) an inventory of the  
71 facilities located in such park, and (3) an examination of the staffing  
72 needs for such park. Not later than five years following the completion  
73 of a review for a state park, and every five years thereafter, said  
74 bureaus shall update such review for said park.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	23-10b
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	23-15b
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To implement the recommendations of the Program Review and Investigations Committee concerning certain fiscal and resource-related matters pertaining to state parks.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*