



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5370**

February Session, 2014



**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 Section 23-10b of the general statutes is repealed and the  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 shall allocate a portion of  
12 such revenue from the rental of any cabin for deposit in the  
13 maintenance, repair and improvement subaccount for the state park, as  
14 established pursuant to section 23-15b, as amended by this act, in  
15 which such cabin is located. Such services and fees shall not affect  
16 admission, parking, camping and related existing fees. No services

17 shall compete with a concessionaire under contract with the  
18 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection at the time such  
19 service is offered.

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 Section 23-15b of the general statutes is repealed and the  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

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

32 (b) Fifty per cent of all revenues from the operation of each state  
33 park, except revenues from rents that are otherwise fully deposited in  
34 the maintenance, repair and improvement account in accordance with  
35 subsection (a) of this section, shall be deposited into the maintenance,  
36 repair and improvement account.

37 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, any  
38 funds received by the Department of Energy and Environmental  
39 Protection pursuant to ~~[subsection]~~ subsections (a) and (b) of this  
40 section shall be deposited in the General Fund and credited to the  
41 maintenance, repair and improvement account. Within said account  
42 there shall be a subaccount for each state park from which funds are  
43 collected pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and for each state  
44 park in which any cabin is located, which subaccounts shall be held  
45 separate and apart from each other. The commissioner shall deposit  
46 into the applicable subaccount any revenue from the rental of cabins  
47 that the commissioner allocates pursuant to section 23-10b, as  
48 amended by this act. Each subaccount shall be available to the

49 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection for  
50 maintaining, making improvements to, erecting structures on or  
51 repairing the property, including houses and other buildings, of the  
52 state park for which such subaccount was established, provided any  
53 revenues in such subaccounts from the rental of cabins shall be used  
54 for the purpose of maintaining any cabin that is located in the park for  
55 which such subaccount was established. Any funds deposited in the  
56 maintenance, repair and improvement account pursuant to subsection  
57 (b) of this section shall be available to the commissioner for expenses  
58 associated with the operation of all state parks. Nothing in this section  
59 shall prevent the commissioner from obtaining or using funds from  
60 sources other than the maintenance, repair and improvement account  
61 for the purposes described in this subsection. Funds in the  
62 maintenance, repair and improvement account shall be used to  
63 supplement state funds appropriated for the general operation of state  
64 parks and shall not replace such appropriated funds for purposes of  
65 such general operation.

66 [(c)] (d) On or before October 1, 2010, and semiannually thereafter,  
67 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall  
68 report to the Office of Fiscal Analysis on the state parks for which  
69 funds have been collected pursuant to [subsection] subsections (a) and  
70 (b) of this section. Such report shall include (1) the amount of funds  
71 received into the maintenance, repair and improvement account,  
72 itemized by subaccount for funds received pursuant to subsection (a)  
73 of this section and by revenue type and location for funds received  
74 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, (2) the amount of funds the  
75 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has expended  
76 from the account for each park, and (3) the projects for which such  
77 funds have been expended. Said commissioner shall post the same  
78 information on the department's Internet web site.

79 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than December 31,  
80 2014, and annually thereafter, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation,  
81 within the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, shall

82 develop a results-based accountability report card in accordance with  
 83 guidelines established by the joint standing committee of the General  
 84 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and  
 85 the budgets of state agencies. Such report card shall identify any  
 86 challenges or areas for improvement regarding the state parks and  
 87 include measures regarding: (1) Park use, including, but not limited to,  
 88 attendance, safety and patron satisfaction, and (2) park operations,  
 89 including, but not limited to, planning, facilities and personnel. Any  
 90 such report card shall be submitted to the joint standing committees of  
 91 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the  
 92 environment and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies. The  
 93 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall post any  
 94 such report card on the department's Internet web site.

95       Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) Not later than February 1, 2020,  
 96 the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation within the Department of Energy  
 97 and Environmental Protection shall conduct a review of each state  
 98 park. Such review shall include, but not be limited to: (1) An  
 99 assessment of the condition of such park, (2) an inventory of the  
 100 facilities located in such park, (3) an assessment of the potential  
 101 revenue generation and historic significance of such facilities, and (4)  
 102 an examination of the staffing needs for such park. Not later than five  
 103 years following the completion of a review for a state park, and every  
 104 five years thereafter, said bureau shall update such review for such  
 105 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>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

In section 1, the reference to section 23-15b was rephrased for clarity.

**PRI**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*