



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 70

February Session, 2014



AN ACT CONCERNING THE GRANT OF PROPERTY INTERESTS IN PROPERTY HELD BY THE DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE AND ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUBLIC USE AND BENEFIT LAND REGISTRY.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Prior to the conveyance of
2 any property interest in any parcel of property owned or under the
3 custody and control of the Department of Agriculture or the
4 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, except a
5 temporary easement granted to another state agency, the
6 Commissioner of Agriculture or the Commissioner of Energy and
7 Environmental Protection, as applicable, shall submit such proposed
8 conveyance to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
9 having cognizance of matters relating to the environment. The
10 Commissioner of Agriculture or the Commissioner of Energy and
11 Environmental Protection, as applicable, shall request approval of such
12 conveyance by said joint standing committee. Said committee shall
13 have not more than forty-five days from the date such request is
14 received to convene a public hearing on the proposed conveyance. Not
15 later than thirty days after such public hearing, said committee may
16 convene a meeting to vote to approve or disapprove such conveyance,
17 or notify the applicable commissioner, in writing, that said committee

18 is waiving its right to convene a meeting. If such request is withdrawn,
19 altered, amended or otherwise changed, the applicable commissioner
20 shall resubmit such request, and said committee shall have not more
21 than forty-five days from the date of such resubmittal to convene a
22 public hearing on such resubmittal and not more than thirty days
23 following such hearing to convene a meeting to vote to approve or
24 disapprove such action, or notify the applicable commissioner, in
25 writing, that it is waiving its right to convene a meeting. If said
26 committee does not act on a request or the resubmittal of a request, as
27 the case may be, within such applicable seventy-five-day period, the
28 request shall be deemed to be approved by said committee.

29 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Energy
30 and Environmental Protection may designate lands owned by the
31 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection as lands of
32 public use and benefit. For the purposes of this section and section 23-8
33 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, "lands of public use and
34 benefit" means land that is used for conservation purposes, public
35 enjoyment purposes, recreational purposes or any activity associated
36 with improving or maintaining such conservation, public enjoyment or
37 recreational purposes.

38 Sec. 3. Subsection (e) of section 23-8 of the general statutes is
39 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
40 *passage*):

41 (e) To further the efforts to preserve open space in the state and to
42 help realize the goals established in subsection (b) of this section, on or
43 before [October 1, 2014] January 1, 2015, the Commissioner of Energy
44 and Environmental Protection shall establish a publicly accessible
45 geographic information map system and database that contains a
46 public use and benefit land registry that is capable of providing, at a
47 minimum, the following information for lands owned by the
48 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, other state
49 agencies, municipalities, land conservation organizations and water
50 companies: (1) The location and ownership information for such lands,

51 (2) categorizations for any such lands that are based on the use and
 52 level of protection applicable to such lands, (3) information data sheets
 53 for such lands that include any applicable deed, easement, land
 54 survey, maps and data for each parcel that constitutes such lands, and
 55 (4) whenever available, management and stewardship plans for such
 56 lands. In establishing such registry, the commissioner, in consultation
 57 with each state agency, shall identify lands owned by the state that are
 58 in the custody of each state agency and that are valuable for
 59 conservation purposes or that are lands of public use and benefit. Said
 60 commissioner shall consult with the Commissioner of Public Health
 61 about any lands owned by the state that are identified as water supply
 62 lands. The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection
 63 shall make such public use and benefit land registry available on the
 64 department's Internet web site not later than January 1, 2015. Not later
 65 than January 1, 2015, such public use and benefit land registry shall
 66 include the minimum information required pursuant to this subsection
 67 for three state parks, as selected by the commissioner. On and after
 68 January 1, 2015, the commissioner shall update such public use and
 69 benefit land registry on a quarterly basis until such registry contains
 70 the minimum information required by this subsection for an additional
 71 ten state parks.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	23-8(e)

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*