



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 386

February Session, 2016

* SB00386ENV__031716__ *

AN ACT CONCERNING THE FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY OF STATE PARKS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1,
2 2017, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall
3 submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General
4 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment, in
5 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the
6 establishment of a per-person admission fee at all state parks by July 1,
7 2017. Such report shall include, but not be limited to, a
8 recommendation for the dollar amount of such per-person admission
9 fee that will result in: (1) The amount of such per-person admission
10 fee, when both coupled with and established in lieu of any applicable
11 parking fee at each state park, being comparable to the applicable per-
12 person admission fees and parking fees of state parks located in the
13 states of New York, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New
14 Hampshire and Maine, and (2) increased revenue from state park
15 admission and parking fees. In developing such recommendation, the
16 commissioner shall account for the continued availability of parking
17 and parking and admission to state parks without fee for disabled
18 veterans and persons sixty-five years of age or older.

19 Sec. 2. Section 23-15d of the 2016 supplement to the general statutes

20 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
21 *from passage*):

22 (a) Not later than August 15, 2015, the Commissioner of Energy and
23 Environmental Protection shall develop a request for information
24 concerning the operation of concessions, provision of services and
25 offering of recreational amenities at state parks. Such concessions shall
26 include, but not be limited to, year-round concessions and concessions
27 that engage the use of revenue share formulas between the vendor and
28 the department. Such services shall include, but not be limited to,
29 parking options for park patrons, including, but not limited to,
30 advanced reservation parking and convenience or curbside parking.
31 The purpose of such request for information shall be to seek
32 informational documentation for the operation of such concessions,
33 provision of such services and offering of recreational amenities. Not
34 later than September 15, 2015, such request for information shall be
35 forwarded by the commissioner to the Department of Administrative
36 Services for posting on the State Contracting Portal. Concomitantly,
37 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall direct
38 a copy of such request for information to any private vendor known by
39 the commissioner to provide such operation, provision or offering. Not
40 later than December 1, 2015, the commissioner shall forward, to the
41 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
42 of matters relating to the environment, a copy of any informational
43 documentation received by the commissioner in response to such
44 request for information and a written assessment and evaluation of
45 such informational documentation, including, but not limited to, any
46 recommendation for the offering at state parks of concessions, services
47 and recreational amenities that are not offered at such state parks as of
48 June 22, 2015.

49 (b) Not later than September 1, 2016, the Commissioner of Energy
50 and Environmental Protection shall direct a copy of the request for
51 information developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to
52 state-wide business associations, chambers of commerce and trade

53 associations that represent or include members who may have the
54 capacity to operate or offer one or more concessions, services or
55 recreational amenities at state parks. The commissioner shall accept
56 any response to such request for information that is received by the
57 department pursuant to this subsection. Not later than January 1, 2017,
58 the commissioner shall forward, to the joint standing committee of the
59 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
60 environment, a copy of any response and informational
61 documentation received by the commissioner in response to such
62 request for information pursuant to this subsection.

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>	23-15d

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*