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## OLR Bill Analysis

### sSB 896

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING TREE REMOVAL ON PROPERTIES UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.***

#### **SUMMARY**

By January 1, 2024, and then annually, this bill requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner to report to the Environment Committee on the department's tree removal activities in state parks and forests during the prior year. The annual report must contain the following information:

1. each state park and forest where a tree removal project occurred in the prior calendar year;
2. the total acreage for each project;
3. an explanation of whether the projects consisted of removing fallen trees or cutting down trees;
4. the reasons for each project;
5. the total cost for each project and the funding sources;
6. a description of any emergency tree removal activities in state parks or forests, including the circumstance that constituted the emergency and the process used to determine the emergency status;
7. a description of any removed tree or group of trees with unique characteristics, including age, caliper, species, canopy, or aesthetics;

8. any replanting activities done or authorized by DEEP, including the total acreage of replanting, the species and applicable caliper of trees or plants used, and the costs and funding sources for the replanting; and
9. a description of any planned or anticipated tree removal project in any state park or forest for the next calendar year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 32 Nay 0 (03/03/2023)