



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 17

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 5009

House of Representatives, March 7, 2023

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. GRESKO of the 121st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC SAFETY CAPACITY OF SQUANTZ POND STATE PARK.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Energy
2 and Environmental Protection shall adopt regulations, in accordance
3 with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes, on or before
4 January 31, 2024, to establish the public safety capacity of Squantz Pond
5 State Park. Such regulations shall provide for: (1) The closure of said
6 state park to new entrants when such public safety capacity is reached,
7 regardless of whether patrons enter by vehicle or on foot; and (2) the
8 utilization of the following factors in determining the public safety
9 capacity of said state park: (A) The number of visitors that can be safely
10 supervised, taking into account the staffing at said state park; (B) the
11 number of swimmers that can be safely supervised, taking into account
12 the lifeguard staffing in said state park; (C) the parking capacity at said
13 state park; (D) the pedestrian and vehicular traffic on the highway
14 leading to said state park that threatens, or is reasonably likely to

15 threaten, public safety by pedestrians walking on the side of the
16 highway or by impeding the travel of emergency vehicles because of the
17 high volume of vehicles parked or moving on the highway; and (E) the
18 authority of the commissioner to utilize the number of vehicles entering
19 said state park as a proxy for the number of visitors at said state park.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to adopt regulations to establish the public safety capacity of Squantz Pond State Park, does not result in a fiscal impact as the agency currently has expertise in park management.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5009

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC SAFETY CAPACITY OF SQUANTZ POND STATE PARK.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection commissioner to adopt regulations by January 31, 2024, to establish the public safety capacity of Squantz Pond State Park in New Fairfield.

These regulations must provide for closing the park to new entrants (whether by vehicle or on foot) when the public safety capacity is reached. They must also use the following factors in determining the park’s public safety capacity:

1. the number of visitors and swimmers that can be safely supervised given the park and lifeguard staffing levels,
2. the park’s parking capacity,
3. pedestrian and vehicular traffic on the highway leading to the park that may threaten pedestrians’ public safety or impede emergency vehicles using the highway, and
4. the commissioner’s authority to use the number of vehicles entering the park as a proxy for the number of park visitors.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 32 Nay 0 (02/17/2023)