



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 173**

January Session, 2023

Substitute Senate Bill No. 896

*Senate, March 22, 2023*

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. LOPES of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

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

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 2024, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Energy and  
3 Environmental Protection shall submit a report, in accordance with the  
4 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing  
5 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
6 relating to the environment that details the Department of Energy and  
7 Environmental Protection's tree removal activities in state parks and  
8 forests for the previous calendar year. Such report shall include, but not  
9 be limited to: (1) An identification of each state park and forest where  
10 any tree removal project occurred during such previous calendar year,  
11 (2) the total acreage for any such tree removal project, (3) an explanation  
12 of whether such tree removal project consisted of the removal of already  
13 fallen trees or the felling of trees, (4) the reasons for any such tree  
14 removal project, (5) the total cost for any such tree removal project and

15 the source of funding for such project, (6) a description of any  
 16 emergency tree removal activities in any such state park or forest,  
 17 including, but not limited to, the circumstance that constituted such  
 18 emergency and the process utilized for making a determination of an  
 19 emergency, (7) a description of the removal of any tree or group of trees  
 20 that possessed unique characteristics, including, but not limited to, age,  
 21 caliper, species, canopy or aesthetics, (8) details of any replanting  
 22 activities undertaken or authorized by the department in any such state  
 23 park or forest, including, but not limited to, the total acreage of any such  
 24 replanting activities, the species and applicable caliper of trees or plants  
 25 used in any such replanting and the costs and source of funding for any  
 26 such replanting activities, and (9) a description of any planned or  
 27 anticipated tree removal project in any state park or forest for the  
 28 forthcoming calendar year.

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 is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact because the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has the expertise to report, annually and by January 1, 2024, on their tree removal activities in state parks and forests for the prior year.

**The Out Years****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

**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)