



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Committee Bill No. 5009

LCO No. 3000



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC SAFETY CAPACITY OF STATE PARKS.

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 each state
5 park. Such regulations shall provide for: (1) The closure of each such
6 state park to new entrants when such public safety capacity for such
7 park is reached, regardless of whether patrons enter by vehicle or on
8 foot; and (2) the utilization of the following factors in determining the
9 public safety capacity of a state park: (A) The number of visitors that can
10 be safely supervised, taking into account the staffing at the state park;
11 (B) if a water body is located in the state park, the number of swimmers
12 that can be safely supervised, taking into account the lifeguard staffing
13 in such park; (C) the parking capacity at the state park; (D) the
14 pedestrian and vehicular traffic on a state or municipal highway leading
15 to the state park that threatens, or is reasonably likely to threaten, public
16 safety by pedestrians walking on the side of a state or municipal
17 highway or that threatens to impede the travel of emergency vehicles

18 because of the high volume of vehicles parked or moving on a state or
19 municipal highway; and (E) the authority of the commissioner to utilize
20 the number of vehicles entering the state park as a proxy for the number
21 of visitors at such park.

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

Statement of Purpose:

To protect the public safety of state parks and the transit areas surrounding the entrance to our state parks.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. CALLAHAN, 108th Dist.

H.B. 5009