



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Proposed Bill No. 5562

LCO No. 1109



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Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:

REP. CALLAHAN, 108th Dist.

SEN. HARDING, 30th Dist.

SEN. KUSHNER, 24th Dist.

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 That the general statutes be amended to require (1) the Commissioner
2 of Energy and Environmental Protection to adopt regulations on or
3 before January 31, 2024, to provide a list of the public safety capacities
4 for each state park, and (2) the park ranger of each such park to close the
5 park to new entrants when such capacity is reached, regardless of the
6 method of entry to the park by such entrants, whether by vehicle or on
7 foot. As well to provide that the Commissioner of Energy and
8 Environmental Protection shall include the following factors in
9 determining such public safety capacity: (A) The number of visitors that
10 can be safely supervised taking into account the staffing at such park;
11 (B) if a water body is in such park, the number of swimmers that can be
12 safely supervised, taking into account the lifeguard staffing in such
13 park; (C) the parking capacity at such park; and (D) the pedestrian and
14 vehicular traffic on a state or municipal highway leading to such park

15 that threatens, or in all reasonable likelihood will threaten, public safety
16 by pedestrians walking on the side of the state or municipal highway,
17 or by the high volume of vehicles parked or moving on a state or
18 municipal highway that blocks the free movement of emergency
19 vehicles. The commissioner may use the number of vehicles entering the
20 park as a proxy for the number of visitors.

Statement of Purpose:

To provide for the safety of state park visitors.