



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

**Committee Bill No. 301**

LCO No. 3999



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:  
(ENV)

**AN ACT REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF ALL-TERRAIN  
WHEELCHAIRS AT STATE PARKS.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) Not later than October 1,  
2 2023, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall  
3 select five state parks or campground facilities for the availability of all-  
4 terrain wheelchairs to patrons of such parks or campground facilities.  
5 Each park or campground facility selected by the department shall host  
6 two such all-terrain wheelchairs that shall be made available for use to  
7 park or campground facility patrons free of charge. Such all-terrain  
8 wheelchairs shall be made available to such patrons, in accordance with  
9 the provisions of this section, not later than April 1, 2024.

10 (b) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may  
11 establish rules for the hours of availability of such all-terrain  
12 wheelchairs in each such park or campground facility, as well as  
13 procedures and requirements for reserving, requesting the use of and  
14 operating such an all-terrain wheelchair in such state park or  
15 campground facility.

16 (c) Not later than January 1, 2025, the Commissioner of Energy and  
 17 Environmental Protection shall submit a report, in accordance with the  
 18 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing  
 19 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
 20 relating to the environment concerning the use of such all-terrain  
 21 wheelchairs in such state parks or campground facilities. Such report  
 22 shall include, but not be limited to: (1) Information on the number of  
 23 patrons that used such all-terrain wheelchairs at each such state park or  
 24 campground facility since the implementation of the requirements of  
 25 this section, (2) a description of any problems or concerns that arose as  
 26 a result of the availability of such all-terrain wheelchairs pursuant to this  
 27 section, (3) recommendations as to the sufficiency of providing two such  
 28 all-terrain wheelchairs for each state park or campground facility, and  
 29 (4) suggestions for the expansion of such availability of all-terrain  
 30 wheelchairs at additional state parks or campground facilities  
 31 throughout the state.

32 (d) For purposes of this section, "all-terrain wheelchair" means a  
 33 battery-powered wheelchair that has treads capable of traversing trails,  
 34 sand, gravel and similar rugged terrain or ground cover.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To provide all-terrain wheelchairs for use by the public at 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: SEN. OSTEN, 19th Dist.

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