



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  
4 all-terrain wheelchairs to patrons of such parks or campground  
5 facilities. Each park or campground facility selected by the department  
6 shall host two such all-terrain wheelchairs that shall be made available  
7 for use to park or campground facility patrons free of charge. Such all-  
8 terrain wheelchairs shall be made available to such patrons, in  
9 accordance with the provisions of this section, not later than April 1,  
10 2024.

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

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

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

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

**ENV**

*Joint Favorable C/R*

APP