



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 407**

February Session, 2022

Substitute House Bill No. 5254

*House of Representatives, April 11, 2022*

The Committee on Transportation reported through REP. LEMAR of the 96th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF PUBLIC ACCESS TO CERTAIN BEACHES AND PARKS.***

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Energy and  
2 Environmental Protection and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
3 Management shall jointly conduct a study of access by members of the  
4 public to beaches and parks adjacent to marine or tidal waters that are  
5 owned or otherwise controlled by any municipality or other political  
6 subdivision of the state. Such study shall include, but not be limited to,  
7 (1) an examination of any ordinances, regulations or other rules enacted  
8 or enforced by any such municipality or political subdivision that limit  
9 public access to any such beach or park based on the residency of a  
10 potential visitor, (2) an examination of any fees or other means of  
11 limiting access to such beach or park that disparately impact any such  
12 potential visitor based on residency, (3) an accounting of any state or  
13 federal funds received by any such municipality or political subdivision  
14 for such beach or park, and (4) an examination of whether the receipt of

15 any such funds require access by members of the public to such beach  
 16 or park and whether any ordinances, regulations or other rules enacted  
 17 or enforced by such municipality or public subdivision violate such  
 18 access requirements.

19 (b) Not later than January 1, 2023, the commissioner and the secretary  
 20 shall submit to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly  
 21 having cognizance of matters relating to the environment, planning and  
 22 development and transportation, in accordance with the provisions of  
 23 section 11-4a of the general statutes, (1) a report on the findings of such  
 24 study, and (2) recommendations for legislation to address potential  
 25 concerns identified in such study regarding access by members of the  
 26 public to such beaches and parks.

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

**TRA**      *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.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to jointly conduct a study of public access to municipally owned waterfront beaches and parks. This has no fiscal impact as both DEEP and OPM have the necessary expertise to perform the study.

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



**OLR Bill Analysis**

sHB 5254

***AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF PUBLIC ACCESS TO CERTAIN BEACHES AND PARKS.***

**SUMMARY**

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24 Nay 11 (03/24/2022)