



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Proposed Bill No. 5009

LCO No. 110



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
REP. CALLAHAN, 108th 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 establish the public safety capacity of each
4 state park, and (2) the closure of each such state park to new entrants
5 when such public safety capacity for such park is reached, regardless of
6 the method of entry for such park, whether by vehicle or on foot.
7 Additionally, the commissioner shall utilize the following factors in
8 determining the public safety capacity of a state park: (A) The number
9 of visitors that can be safely supervised, taking into account the staffing
10 at the park; (B) if a water body is in the state park, the number of
11 swimmers that can be safely supervised, taking into account the
12 lifeguard staffing in such park; (C) the parking capacity at the state park;
13 and (D) the pedestrian and vehicular traffic on a state or municipal
14 highway leading to the state park that threatens, or is reasonably likely
15 to threaten, public safety by pedestrians walking on the side of a state

16 or municipal highway or threatens to impede the travel of emergency
17 vehicles because of the high volume of vehicles parked or moving on a
18 state or municipal highway. The commissioner may use the number of
19 vehicles entering the park as a proxy for the number of visitors at such
20 park.

Statement of Purpose:

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