



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	July 1, 2023	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable C/R* APP
APP *Joint Favorable*