



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2023

LCO No. 8494



Offered by:  
SEN. LOPES, 6<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 896

File No. 173

Cal. No. 118

**"AN ACT CONCERNING TREE REMOVAL ON PROPERTIES UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1,  
4 2024, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of Energy and  
5 Environmental Protection shall submit a report, in accordance with the  
6 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing  
7 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
8 relating to the environment that details the Department of Energy and  
9 Environmental Protection's hazardous tree removal activities in state  
10 parks for the previous calendar year. Such report shall include, but not  
11 be limited to: (1) An identification of each state park where any  
12 hazardous tree removal project occurred during such previous calendar  
13 year, (2) the total acreage for any such hazardous tree removal project,  
14 (3) an explanation of whether such hazardous tree removal project  
15 consisted of the removal of already fallen trees or the felling of trees, (4)

16 the reasons for any such hazardous tree removal project, (5) the total  
 17 cost for any such hazardous tree removal project and the source of  
 18 funding for such project, (6) a description of the removal of any  
 19 hazardous tree or group of hazardous trees that possessed unique  
 20 characteristics, including, but not limited to, age, caliper, species,  
 21 canopy or aesthetics, and (7) a description of any planned or anticipated  
 22 hazardous tree removal project in any state park for the forthcoming  
 23 calendar year.

24 Sec. 2. Section 23-8 of the general statutes is amended by adding  
 25 subsection (f) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

26 (NEW) (f) In order to ensure that the benefits of open space and tree  
 27 cover are enjoyed equitably by residents of the state, it shall be the goal  
 28 of the state to increase the total percentage of environmental justice  
 29 communities, as defined in section 22a-20a, that are covered by tree  
 30 canopy, not later than January 1, 2040, by five per cent of the total area  
 31 of such communities that have a current tree canopy cover of less than  
 32 forty per cent."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	23-8(f)