



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2023

LCO No. 8474



Offered by:
SEN. LOPES, 6th 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 tree or
 19 group of trees that possessed unique characteristics, including, but not
 20 limited to, age, caliper, species, canopy or aesthetics, and (7) a
 21 description of any planned or anticipated hazardous tree removal
 22 project in any state park for the forthcoming calendar year.

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

25 (NEW) (f) In order to ensure that the benefits of open space and tree
 26 cover are enjoyed equitably by residents of the state, it shall be the goal
 27 of the state to increase the total percentage of environmental justice
 28 communities, as defined in section 22a-20a, that are covered by tree
 29 canopy, not later than January 1, 2024, by five per cent of the total area
 30 of such communities that have a current tree canopy cover of less than
 31 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)