



**PA 23-43**—sHB 5009  
*Environment Committee*

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC SAFETY CAPACITY OF  
SQUANTZ POND STATE PARK**

**SUMMARY:** This act requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner to develop and publicly post the capacity limit of Squantz Pond State Park (in New Fairfield) by January 31, 2024. Under the act, she must use the following factors when determining the capacity limit:

1. the number of visitors and swimmers that can be safely supervised given the park and lifeguard staffing levels;
2. the park's parking and public restroom capacity;
3. pedestrian and vehicular traffic on any highway without a sidewalk leading to the park that threatens, or is reasonably likely to threaten, pedestrians' public safety or impede emergency vehicles using the highway due to the high volume of parked or moving vehicles; and
4. the commissioner's authority to use the number of vehicles entering the park as a proxy for the number of park visitors.

The act also (1) requires the DEEP commissioner to coordinate with municipal and state law enforcement to implement traffic control efforts to minimize public safety concerns on local roads and state highways outside the park and (2) allows her to close the park to new entrants when it reaches the capacity limit.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon passage