



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5254

February Session, 2022



AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF PUBLIC ACCESS TO CERTAIN BEACHES AND PARKS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Energy and
2 Environmental Protection and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
3 Management shall jointly conduct a study of access by members of the
4 public to beaches and parks adjacent to marine or tidal waters that are
5 owned or otherwise controlled by any municipality or other political
6 subdivision of the state. Such study shall include, but not be limited to,
7 (1) an examination of any ordinances, regulations or other rules enacted
8 or enforced by any such municipality or political subdivision that limit
9 public access to any such beach or park based on the residency of a
10 potential visitor, (2) an examination of any fees or other means of
11 limiting access to such beach or park that disparately impact any such
12 potential visitor based on residency, (3) an accounting of any state or
13 federal funds received by any such municipality or political subdivision
14 for such beach or park, and (4) an examination of whether the receipt of
15 any such funds require access by members of the public to such beach
16 or park and whether any ordinances, regulations or other rules enacted
17 or enforced by such municipality or public subdivision violate such
18 access requirements.

19 (b) Not later than January 1, 2023, the commissioner and the secretary
20 shall submit to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
21 having cognizance of matters relating to the environment, planning and
22 development and transportation, in accordance with the provisions of
23 section 11-4a of the general statutes, (1) a report on the findings of such
24 study, and (2) recommendations for legislation to address potential
25 concerns identified in such study regarding access by members of the
26 public to such beaches and parks.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

TRA *Joint Favorable Subst.*