



2023-2024 General Assembly

HOUSE BILL 168: Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Agency Bill, Sec. 4: State Parks Report Consolidation

Committee:
Introduced by:
Analysis of: Sec. 4 of S.L. 2023-70

Date: November 27, 2023
Prepared by: Aaron McGlothlin
Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *Section 4 of S.L. 2023-70 amends the requirements of the State Parks Systems Plan, to add a requirement that the Secretary of Natural and Cultural Resources (Secretary) validate the number of visitors per car used in the calculation of visitor counts at units of the State Parks System. This section repeals a similar reporting requirement applicable to the Department of Environmental Quality.*

This section became effective June 30, 2023.

BACKGROUND / BILL ANALYSIS:

The State Parks Act requires the Secretary to prepare and adopt a State Parks System Plan. The Plan must: outline a method so the purposes of the State Parks System can be achieved in a timely, cost-effective manner; evaluate existing parks to determine their statewide significance; identify deficiencies and recommend corrections; describe the resources of the State Parks System, identify conflicts created by those uses, and propose solutions; and describe anticipated trends and recommend methods to accommodate those trends successfully. The Secretary must revise the Plan at intervals not exceeding five years.

Section 4 amends the requirements of the State Parks Systems Plan, to add a requirement that the Secretary validate the number of visitors per car used in the calculation of visitor counts at units of the State Parks System. This section repeals a similar reporting requirement applicable to the Department of Environmental Quality.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This section became effective June 30, 2023.

**Brad Krehely and Brian Gwyn, Staff Attorneys for the Legislative Analysis Division, substantially contributed to this summary.*

Jeffrey Hudson
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578