ASSEMBLY, No. 2194

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman JOHN F. MCKEON
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Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE
District 37 (Bergen)
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District 28 (Essex)
Assemblyman PARKER SPACE
District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)
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District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Co-Sponsored by:
Assemblyman Coughlin, Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblyman Wirths and Assemblywoman Murphy

SYNOPSIS

Requires State parks, forests, and other natural and historic areas to remain open to public for seven days if emergency is declared due to failure to enact general appropriation law as prescribed by NJ Constitution.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.

AN ACT concerning the continued operation of certain State parks, sites, and areas, and supplementing Title 13 of the Revised Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

1. a. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall develop a plan for the continued operation of all State parks and forests, State recreation areas, State historic sites, State natural areas, and State wildlife management areas during a state of emergency that is declared due to the failure to enact a general appropriation law by the deadline prescribed by Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 2 of the New Jersey Constitution. The plan shall designate the State employees that are essential to provide for the services at each State park and forest, State recreation area, State historic site, State natural area, and State wildlife management area.

b. In the event that a state of emergency is declared due to the failure to enact a general appropriation law by the deadline prescribed by Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 2 of the New Jersey Constitution, the operation of State parks and forests, State recreation areas, State historic sites, State natural areas, and State wildlife management areas shall continue and all such locations shall be open to the public for a period not to exceed seven calendar days. All State employees that have been designated as necessary to provide for the government services at each State park and forest, State recreation area, State historic site, State natural area, and State wildlife management area shall be considered essential personnel.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill would require that State parks and forests, State recreation areas, State historic sites, State natural areas, and State wildlife management areas would continue to be open to the public for a period not to exceed seven calendar days if a state of emergency is declared due to the failure to enact a general appropriation law by the deadline prescribed by Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 2 of the New Jersey Constitution. The Department of Environmental Protection would be required to develop a plan for the continued operation of those locations if such a state of emergency is declared which would designate those State employees necessary to continue to provide services.