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HOUSE BILL NO. 1225

Offered January 19, 2012

A *BILL* to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 10.1-122.4, relating to state parks.

Patron—Farrell (By Request)

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 10.1-122.4 as follows:**

10.1-122.4, Competition with private businesses.

A. *Camping ground fees charged by the Department shall be set annually on or before March 1 of each year. Such fees may not be lower than the mean fee charged for the same category of service by the privately-operated camping grounds in the county in which the Department-operated camping ground is located and every county contiguous to such county. Such mean fee shall be calculated based on any fee schedules for such year voluntarily provided upon request to the Department by operators of such privately-operated camp grounds each year by January 15. Fees shall be set by the Department for the following categories:*

- 1. Camp sites which have no water, electric or sewage hookups;*
- 2. Camp sites with water and electric hookups;*
- 3. Camp sites with water, sewer and electric hookups;*
- 4. Camp sites with additional services including wi-fi, television, and telephone hookups, grills, tables, or other conveniences;*
- 5. Primitive camping; and*
- 6. Group camping;*

B. *After July 1, 2012, the Department shall not construct any new camping grounds until it has conducted a study which assesses the camping facilities needs of the area in which the camp grounds are proposed to be located. If such study concludes that adequate camping facilities are being provided in such area by private camp ground operators, the Department shall not construct the proposed camp grounds.*

C. *The Department shall not operate any restaurant, retail store, marina, golf course, entertainment facility, campground, rental cabins or units, or other business which may compete with private businesses in the county or surrounding counties unless (i) the Department has made a good faith effort to secure a private person or business to operate such facility and (ii) no such person or business has been secured. If the Department operates any such facility, the Department shall make a good faith effort to secure a private person or business to operate such facility at least once every two years.*

INTRODUCED

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