

2023 SESSION

INTRODUCED

23104518D

HOUSE BILL NO. 2453

Offered January 20, 2023

A BILL to direct the Department of Conservation and Recreation to create a two-year pilot program to provide all-terrain power wheelchairs to enhance state park accessibility for individuals with limited mobility.

Patron—Tran

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. *The Department of Conservation and Recreation (the Department), shall establish a two-year pilot program beginning October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2025, to enhance accessibility for individuals with limited mobility in Virginia's state parks by providing all-terrain power wheelchairs that may be used by such persons during their visits.*

§ 2. *The Department shall choose the locations for the pilot program and shall enter into a contract for the purchase of all-terrain power wheelchairs for the pilot program. Such wheelchairs shall be equipped with tank-like tracks capable of traveling up hills, over rocks, roots, streams, and sand; clearing fallen trees; plowing through tall grass; and tackling uphill climbs. The Department may establish guidelines to administer the pilot program.*

§ 3. *By November 1, 2025, the Department shall report the outcomes of the pilot program to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources. Such report shall include the cost of the entire program, any benefits attendant to the placement of all-terrain power wheelchairs in the locations of the pilot program, and recommendations concerning the continued placement of all-terrain power wheelchairs in Virginia's state parks.*

INTRODUCED

HB2453