

Department of Planning and Budget 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB1035

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Guzman

3. **Committee:** Appropriations

4. **Title:** State parks; free entry for veterans.

5. **Summary:** Establishes a Veteran's Passport program for veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States or members of the Virginia National Guard that entitles the bearer to enter state parks in the Commonwealth without the payment of a parking or admission fee.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No. See item 8.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary.

7a. **Expenditure Impact:** Indeterminate.

7b. **Revenue Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2023	(\$483,879)	NGF
2024	(\$493,557)	NGF
2025	(\$503,428)	NGF
2026	(\$513,496)	NGF
2027	(\$523,766)	NGF
2028	(\$534,242)	NGF
2029	(\$544,926)	NGF

8. **Fiscal Implications:** It is anticipated that this bill may reduce state park revenues by an indeterminate amount as the number of visitors to the park system who are veterans is not known, nor is the number of such individuals who would elect to use the passport.

Currently, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) offers veterans with 100 percent disability free entry into state parks and a 50 percent discount on camping, swimming, and shelter and equipment rentals. Additionally, Virginia State Parks offers free parking and admission to all active duty and retired military on Veterans Day. This bill would provide free entry and parking to all veterans year-around. Based on data from the US Department of Veterans Affairs, there are 730,215 veterans in Virginia. At this time, the number of visitors to the park system who are veterans is not known, nor is the number of such individuals who would elect to use the passport.

To calculate an estimate on potential revenue loss, DCR applied the population percentage of veterans (less disabled veterans), 5.97 percent of the total population, to FY 2021 actual revenue collections with a 2 percent anticipated increase annually. As such, it is estimated that offering free parking and admission to veterans would reduce revenues by \$483,879 beginning in FY 2023. With a 2 percent anticipated increase annually the revenue loss amount would be \$544,926 by FY 2029. If revenues are reduced by these estimates, DCR anticipates that services may be impacted.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Conservation and Recreation; Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: HB132 expands the Disabled Veteran's Passport program to all U.S. veterans with a service-connected disability. .