

Department of Planning and Budget 2021 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1739

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Wampler

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. Title: State parks; discounted rental and service fees, military and veterans.

5. Summary: Directs the Department of Conservation and Recreation to establish a policy that entitles any veteran or person on active duty military service, and the accompanying spouse and children of such person, to a 50 percent discount on rental and service fees.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No, see item 8.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate.

8. Fiscal Implications: It is anticipated that this bill will reduce state park revenues. The bill expands benefits for veterans to include a 50 percent discount to all active duty or military veterans on cabin, yurt, and camping site rental fees, shelter rental fees, parking, boat launch, and horse trailer fees, swimming fees, and equipment rental fees. At this time, the number of annual visitors to the parks who are active duty military or spouses of active duty military is unknown; the percentage of such individuals who would elect to use the discount is also unknown. However, based on data from the US Census Bureau, there are 677,533 veterans in Virginia and 122,314 active-duty military. This makes up approximately 9.4 percent of the total Virginia population of 8,535,519. To calculate an estimate on potential nongeneral fund revenue loss, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) applied the population percentage to FY 2020 actual revenue collections with a 2 percent anticipated increase annually. This would result in a potential revenue loss of \$846,634 in FY 2022, \$863,563 in FY 2023, \$880,834 in FY 2024, \$898,452 in FY 2025, and \$916,420 in FY 2025.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Conservation and Recreation.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: Currently, DCR offers a Veteran disability passport to a veteran who has a service-connected disability rating of 100 percent at no charge. HB1766 would extend the passport to all U.S. veterans with a service-connected disability. The passport covers vehicle parking and admission for the pass holder and anyone needed to assist the pass holder at

parks and facilities with a per person admission. Additionally, active duty and retired military are offered free parking and admission on Veterans Day.