

## Department of Planning and Budget 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB666

**House of Origin**    ☒ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed  
**Second House**    ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled

2. **Patron:**        Wampler

3. **Committee:** Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. **Title:**            State park fees; active duty 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 to pay no fee for access, entry, or parking at a state park, and to receive a 50 percent discount for various park services and amenities.

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	(\$1,645,056)	NGF
2024	(\$1,677,957)	NGF
2025	(\$1,711,516)	NGF
2026	(\$1,745,747)	NGF
2027	(\$1,780,662)	NGF
2028	(\$1,816,275)	NGF
2029	(\$1,852,600)	NGF

8. **Fiscal Implications:** It is anticipated that this bill may reduce state park revenues by an indeterminate amount as the number of veterans and active duty military to the park system is not known.

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 all veterans and all active duty military with free entry and a 50 percent discount for various park services and amenities. Based on data from the US Department of Veterans affairs, there are 730,215 Veterans in Virginia and 125,665 active duty military members in Virginia.

To calculate an estimate on potential revenue loss, DCR applied the population percentage of all veterans and active duty military, 18.31 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 admission and 50 percent off camping, swimming, shelters and rentals to all veterans and active duty military could potentially reduce revenues by \$1.6 million beginning in FY 2023. With a 2 percent anticipated increase annually the revenue loss amount would be \$1.8 million 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.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** HB1035 provides for a passport for free admission to the state parks by members of the Virginia National Guard.