

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1367

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: Jones

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. Title: State parks; First Responder and Veteran Passport; discounted entry and parking.

5. Summary: Establishes a First Responder and Veteran Passport that entitles a first responder or a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States or other military service to receive a 50 percent discount on parking and admission fees at state parks in the Commonwealth.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: See item 8.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary.

8. Fiscal Implications: It is anticipated that this bill will reduce state park revenues and may result in additional expenditures, but the amount is indeterminate. The bill requires the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to establish a First Responder and Veteran Passport (the Passport) that entitles the bearer to receive a 50 percent discount on parking and admission fees at state parks in the Commonwealth. 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. DCR does not have a Passport related to first responders.

The Code of Virginia defines a first responder as a person who provides emergency services. This definition would include local, state, and federal law enforcement officers, fire fighters, paramedics, EMTs, and other public safety professionals. Based on a review of available statewide data, DCR believes there are currently 75,870 first responders in Virginia. Data from the US Department of Veterans' Affairs states that there were 730,215 veterans in Virginia in 2019. Subtracting those disabled veterans that already receive benefits in excess of what this proposal provides, leaves an impacted veterans population of 621,272.

To calculate an estimate on potential revenue loss, DCR applied the population percentage of first responders and veterans of the total population to the three-year average of impacted revenue streams, with a 2 percent anticipated increase annually. As such, DCR estimates that the potential revenue loss may range from \$345,648 in FY 2025 to \$389,256 by FY 2030.

With an in-state population of approximately 700,000 individuals eligible for this program at any one-time, additional agency personnel would be needed to review application materials, verify eligibility, and issue passports. This may result in increased operating costs of \$101,946 annually. As written, the legislation does not require that the first responders be residents of or employed in Virginia.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: HB1012 is the companion to this bill.