

## Department of Planning and Budget 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB132

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

**2. Patron:** Cherry

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

**4. Title:** State parks; Disabled Veteran's Passport.

**5. Summary:** Expands the Disabled Veteran's Passport program to all U.S. veterans with a service-connected disability. Currently, a veteran must be 100 percent disabled to be eligible for the program, which provides free entry into state parks and a 50 percent discount on camping and swimming fees, picnic shelter rentals, and other equipment rentals provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

**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	(\$405,752)	NGF
2024	(\$403,867)	NGF
2025	(\$422,144)	NGF
2026	(\$430,587)	NGF
2027	(\$439,199)	NGF
2028	(\$447,983)	NGF
2029	(\$456,943)	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 have a service-connected disability of less than 100 percent 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 expand the current disability benefit to include all disabled veterans, not only those with 100 percent disability. At this time, the number of visitors to the park system who have a service-connected disability of less than 100 percent is not known, nor is the number of

such individuals who would elect to use the passport. Based on data from the US Department of Veterans affairs, there are 730,215 Veterans in Virginia. The estimate of disabled veterans is 29.3 percent of those or 214,030.

To calculate an estimate on potential revenue loss, DCR applied the population percentage of disabled veterans, 2.44 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 disabled veterans could potentially reduce revenues by \$405,752 beginning in FY 2023. With a 2 percent anticipated increase annually the revenue loss amount would be \$456,943 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:** None.