

## Department of Planning and Budget 2021 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB1766

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

**2. Patron:** Cox

**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:** Indeterminate.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** It is anticipated that this bill will reduce state park revenues. 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. 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. However, based on data from the US Census Bureau, there are 677,533 veterans in Virginia, of which, approximately 166,673 are disabled veterans. To calculate an estimate on potential revenue loss, DCR applied the population percentage of disable veterans, 2 percent of the total population, to FY 2020 actual revenue collections with a 2 percent anticipated increase annually.

In the original impact statement, the calculation included anticipated revenue loss from parking and admissions fees; however, DCR has indicated that this was inaccurate, as it is current practice to allow free parking and entry to anyone displaying any type of disabled plate. As such, the updated potential revenue loss as a result of this bill is as follows: \$68,319 in FY 2022, \$69,685 in FY 2023, \$71,079 in FY 2024, \$72,500 in FY 2025, and \$73,950 in FY 2026.

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

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

**11. Other Comments:** None.