

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6528
BILL NUMBER: SB 160

DATE PREPARED: Dec 9, 1998
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: State park fees for disabled persons.

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FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to provide a discount of 50% on the fee for an annual pass to the state parks if the pass is issued to a resident who possesses a valid license plate, decal, or parking placard issued by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) to persons with physical disabilities, or who is certified to be blind, visually impaired, or severely and permanently restricted due to illness. The DNR must provide a discount of 50% on the fee for single day admission to a state park for all the occupants of a motor vehicle that is designated with a valid license plate, decal, or parking placard issued by the BMV for a person with a physical disability.

Effective Date: July 1, 1999.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The DNR may experience additional administrative expenses associated with implementing the above. The primary additional expenses will involve notifying the public of the change. The extent of the additional expenses is indeterminable at this time; however, it is possible that the Department could absorb any additional expenses within its current budget.

Explanation of State Revenues: In calendar year 1997, the BMV issued 110,924 license plates to persons with physical disabilities. The total number of plates issued was 5,165,618. The number of plates issued to persons with disabilities equaled 2% of the total number of plates. In addition to plates for persons with disabilities, the BMV also issued 67,708 placards (including temporary placards) to persons with disabilities.

DNR data indicate that annual daily vehicle attendance raises approximately \$1.4 million. (The total revenue cited includes walk-in traffic; however, revenue generated from walk-in traffic is relatively minimal.) Approximately 20% of vehicle attendance is comprised of out-of-state vehicles. Given that the proposal applies only to residents, only 80% of the \$1.4 million, or \$1,120,000, might be affected by the proposal. The gate fee for in-state vehicles is \$2. Dividing the \$1,120,000 by \$2 results in an estimated annual in-state vehicle attendance of 560,000 each year. Assuming that 2% of these vehicles have plates for persons with

disabilities, an estimated 11,200 (560,000 X .02) vehicles might be affected by the proposal. Requiring the DNR to provide a discount of 50% would result in a revenue decrease in gate fees of approximately \$11,200 (11,200 X \$2 X .50).

The DNR sells approximately 55,000 annual passes each year. The number of annual passes purchased by out-of-state residents is currently unavailable. For in-state visitors, the annual pass costs \$18. Assuming that all passes are sold to residents and assuming that the 2% of those purchasing the pass would qualify for the discount, the estimated decrease in revenue resulting from the 50% discount in annual pass revenue for persons with disabilities is estimated at \$9,900 (55,000 X .02 X \$9).

The total annual decrease in revenue is estimated at \$21,100 (\$11,200 + \$9,900). This figure is low to the extent that it does not consider the number of persons who have been issued a placard for persons with disabilities who may wish to visit DNR properties. It also does not consider the number of individuals who might have a condition or disability that has been certified by a physician, optometrist, or ophthalmologist that would qualify the individuals for the discount.

Fees collected from gate fees and annual passes are deposited into a dedicated fund that is used for the maintenance of state parks.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Natural Resources.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Jim Cassidy, Assistant Director, Division of State Parks and Reservoirs, DNR (317)232-4126; License plate sales data provided by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.