

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

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6568
BILL NUMBER: SB 176

DATE PREPARED: Dec 11, 1998
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: State park admission for veterans with disabilities.

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FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill adds residents who are eligible for a license plate for veterans with disabilities to apply for a Golden Hoosier Passport, which provides a 50% discount on the cost of an annual state parks pass. (Under current law, senior citizens and persons with disabilities eligible for social security benefits are eligible for a Golden Hoosier Passport.)

Effective Date: July 1, 1999.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The DNR may experience additional administrative expenses associated with implementing the above. The primary additional expense 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 costs within its current budget.

Explanation of State Revenues: In calendar year 1997, the BMV issued 4,953 license plates to veterans with disabilities. (The total number of plates issued was 5.2 million. The number of plates issued to persons with disabilities equaled less than .1% of the total number of plates.)

The DNR sells approximately 55,000 annual passes each year. For in-state visitors, the annual pass costs \$18. The number of annual passes purchased by out-of-state residents is currently not known. The annual pass generates a little less than \$1 million per year.

The proposal provides that eligible veterans will be assessed 50% of the annual cost, or \$9. **If all individuals who currently receive license plates for veterans with disabilities** purchased an annual pass at the reduced rate, the loss in revenue resulting from the 50% discount is estimated at \$45,577 (4,953 * \$9), or 4.5% of the total annual pass revenue.

The Department of Veterans Affairs reports that there are currently 43,844 veterans in Indiana who have

service-related disabilities. A number of these veterans would qualify for the discount even though they have not received a license plate for veterans with disabilities. If veterans who qualify but do not obtain a license plate apply for the discount, the fiscal impact would increase. However, the number of veterans in this later category is indeterminable.

The proposal could generate new revenue to the extent that veterans with disabilities who previously have not purchased an annual pass may be encouraged to do so.

Fees collected from annual passes are deposited into a dedicated fund 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; John Brinkley, State Service Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs, (317) 232-3919; License plate sales data provided by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.