

**Department of Planning and Budget**  
**2026 General Assembly Session**  
**State Fiscal Impact Statement**

---

**PUBLISHED: 1/27/2026 3:26 PM**

**ORIGINAL**

**Bill Number:** HB270

**Patron:** Wright

**Bill Title:** State parks; access for veterans; free entry and discounted services.

**Bill Summary:** Requires the Department of Conservation and Recreation to establish a Veteran's Passport that entitles the bearer to (i) enter state parks in the Commonwealth without the payment of a parking or admission fee and (ii) receive a 50 percent discount on camping and swimming fees, picnic shelter rentals, and other Department-provided equipment rentals. Current law provides that such free entry and discounted services are available only to veterans who have a service-connected disability rating of 100 percent and have been issued a Disabled Veteran's Passport by the Department.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**Items Impacted:** N/A.

**Explanation:** This bill involves the Department of Conservation and Recreation; the fiscal impact is indeterminate. A budget amendment is not required.

**Fiscal Summary:** It is anticipated that this bill will reduce revenue for state parks; the impact is indeterminate.

**Fiscal Analysis:** This impact statement is preliminary. 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 with the Disabled Veteran's Passport. This bill would expand this benefit to all veterans, defined in the bill, creating a Veteran's Passport. The second enactment permits any person who has been issued a Disabled Veteran's Passport to use such Passport in perpetuity and shall not be required to request a Veteran's Passport.

Based on data from Virginia Veterans and Defense Affairs office, there are 713,344 veterans in Virginia. To calculate an estimate on potential revenue loss, DCR applied the population percentage of all veterans to the total population in Virginia, providing an estimate of eight percent. Assuming the percentage of visitors to state parks is equivalent to the prevalence of veterans and service members in the general population, the agency estimates that offering free admission and 50 percent off camping, swimming, shelters, and rentals to Virginia veterans would reduce revenues by approximately \$890,560 per fiscal year. The impact for all veterans from any state is unknown.

**Other:** None.