

Wisconsin Department of Administration  
Division of Executive Budget and Finance

### Fiscal Estimate - 2021 Session

Original       Updated       Corrected       Supplemental

<b>LRB Number</b> 21-5417/1	<b>Introduction Number</b> AB-0835	
<b>Description</b> waivers for hunting, fishing, camping, and state park admission fees for law enforcement officers		
<b>Fiscal Effect</b>		
<b>State:</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs		
<b>Local:</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs      3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs      4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 5. Types of Local Government Units Affected <input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities <input type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts		
<b>Fund Sources Affected</b>	<b>Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> GPR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS		
<b>Agency/Prepared By</b>	<b>Authorized Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
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## Fiscal Estimate Narratives

LFB 1/14/2022

LRB Number	21-5417/1	Introduction Number	AB-0835	Estimate Type	Original
<b>Description</b>					
waivers for hunting, fishing, camping, and state park admission fees for law enforcement officers					

### Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Fishing and Hunting Licenses -- In 2021, there were an estimated 13,530 law enforcement officers in the state, including state conservation wardens, State Patrol officers, Capitol Police, UW System public safety officers, and local police. Data on the hunting and fishing behaviors of police is not available. It is estimated that law enforcement officers participate in hunting and fishing at the same rates as the general public.

Because the cost of hunting and fishing licenses is small compared to other costs of hunting and fishing licenses such as ammunition and tackle, firearms, and fishing reels, it is assumed that the percentage of law enforcement who purchase hunting and fishing licenses will not change even if licenses were provided at a discount or no cost.

Over the last three years, an average of 8.1% of adult Wisconsin residents purchased gun deer licenses, 4.1% purchased archery licenses, and 9.7% purchased annual fishing licenses. Based on these proportions, it is estimated that 1,098 law enforcement officers would have the \$24 gun deer license fee waived, 555 would have the \$24 archery license fee waived, and 1,312 would have the \$20 annual fishing license fee waived. Based on these sales, providing each license to law enforcement for free would reduce revenues to the fish and wildlife account by an estimated \$65,800 annually.

The total cost of the bill will vary depending on the date of passage. The waivers created in the bill would be available through fiscal year 2022-23. The archery and gun deer season in fiscal year 2021-22 has already ended, therefore, it is likely that the revenue reduction attributable to archery and gun deer license waivers would only affect revenues in 2022-23.

Parks Admission Fees -- In 2020, 12.2% of Wisconsin households purchased a resident annual parks admission sticker. Based on this proportion, it is estimated that 1,646 law enforcement officers would apply for an annual state parks admission fee waiver. Waiving the \$28 fee for the resident annual parks admission sticker and issuing fee for 1,646 would reduce revenues by \$46,100 annually.

Memorial Day Camping Privileges -- The nightly fee for camping in the state park and forest system costs between \$15 and \$30, depending on site locations and demand. Additional fees, between \$10 and \$15 per site, are charged for campsites with electricity. The bill would waive camping fees for members of law enforcement on Memorial Day weekend for the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights preceding the last Monday in May. Given high demand for camping in state parks on Memorial Day weekend, it is likely that the cost of waiving camping fees for law enforcement would be limited by the availability of campsites. If approximately 5% of law enforcement officers took advantage of the camping fee waiver, approximately 13% of all state park campsites would be occupied by members of law enforcement and their guests. At a median price of \$20 per campsite, waiving camping fees for law enforcement officers for the three-night Memorial Day weekend is estimated to cost approximately \$40,600.

Total Fiscal Effect and Other Considerations -- Based on these assumptions, it is estimated that the bill would reduce revenues by \$265,400 in the 2021-23 biennium, including (a) \$26,300 in 2022-23 for gun deer license fee waivers; (b) \$13,300 in 2022-23 for archery license waivers; (c) \$26,200 in both 2021-22 and 2022-23 for annual fishing license fee waivers; (d) \$46,100 in both 2021-22 and 2022-23 for annual parks admission sticker fee waivers; and (e) \$40,600 in both 2021-22 and 2022-23 for Memorial Day weekend camping fee waivers.

The bill directs the Governor to transfer an amount equal to revenues reduced by the license fee waivers from the State Fiscal Recovery (SRF) fund received under the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Therefore, there would be no fiscal effect to revenues to the SEG conservation fund.

DNR staff would likely be required to reprogram the GoWild automated license issuing system and develop a

method to verify Law Enforcement Officers' credentials. The bill does not appropriate funds for these costs. Therefore, the agency would be require to absorb the cost within existing budget authority.

**Long-Range Fiscal Implications**

The bill authorizes the waivers through June 30, 2023. There is no fiscal effect beyond the biennium.