



Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DNR 1/3/2024

LRB Number	23-5107/1	Introduction Number	AB-0769	Estimate Type	Original
<b>Description</b> free state park admission for veterans and gold star families					

**Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate**

The bill provides that a state park or recreational area vehicle admission sticker is not required for any vehicle occupied by a person who is a veteran under federal law or who qualifies under federal law for a gold star lapel button (commonly known as gold star family), which signifies that the recipient is the immediate family member of a member of the U.S. armed forces who died while serving during a time of conflict.

The department assumes that the exemptions outlined in the bill apply to both resident and non-resident gold star family members.

I. Revenue Estimate

A. Gold Star Family Exemption

1. According to guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), the next of kin (NOK) that are eligible to wear a gold star lapel button are as follows:

The widow (remarried or not); widower (remarried or not); each parent (mother, father, stepmother, stepfather, mother through adoption, father through adoption, and foster parents); each child; each sibling; each half-sibling; each stepsibling; each stepchild; and each adopted child of Service members who are killed in a qualifying situation (e.g., war, military operation, etc.).

2. The department does not have access to data on the number of gold star family members that reside in Wisconsin, nor does it have a way to estimate the number of non-resident gold star family members that would opt to take advantage of the exemption; therefore, the estimated impact of this exemption on park admission fee revenue is indeterminate.

B. Veteran Exemption

1. Resident Admission Fees

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Wisconsin had 350,042 Veterans in 2020. The U.S. Census reports that Wisconsin had a total population of 5,893,718 in 2020; therefore, Veterans comprise about 5.94% of the state population.

In fiscal year 2023, the State Park System brought in approximately \$13,045,600 in resident daily and annual admission sales. Applying the 5.94% of WI Veteran population to resident admission sales results in a potential revenue decrease of \$774,900 (rounded).

2. Nonresident Admission Fees

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, in 2020 there were approximately 19,397,944 Veterans living in the United States, which comprises approximately 5.89% of the total U.S. population (329.5 million). Applying this 5.89% to the nonresident daily and annual admission sales of \$5,162,293 in FY23, may result in a potential revenue decrease of \$304,100 (rounded).

C. Total Revenue Impact

Total potential loss of revenue is estimated at \$1,079,000 (774,900 resident + 304,100 nonresident).

II. Cost Estimate

If the program is administered similar to the disabled Veteran program, staff time will be needed to oversee and

issue ID cards that could be used for admission into the park system. This type of program would allow the Veteran to gain free access to the Park System in any vehicle they were riding in and could result in additional revenue decreases from above. Due to the sheer numbers possible an additional LTE staff person would be needed to track and manage this program.

The department estimates that a full-time LTE will be needed to oversee the program at an estimated annual cost of \$50,600 for salary and fringe benefits, plus an additional, indeterminate amount for management and staff oversight of the program.

### **Long-Range Fiscal Implications**

## Fiscal Estimate Worksheet - 2023 Session

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect

Original     
  Updated     
  Corrected     
  Supplemental

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<b>Description</b> free state park admission for veterans and gold star families		
<b>I. One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):</b>		
<b>II. Annualized Costs:</b>		
	<b>Annualized Fiscal Impact on funds from:</b>	
	Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
<b>A. State Costs by Category</b>		
State Operations - Salaries and Fringes	\$50,600	\$
(FTE Position Changes)		
State Operations - Other Costs		
Local Assistance		
Aids to Individuals or Organizations		
<b>TOTAL State Costs by Category</b>	<b>\$50,600</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>B. State Costs by Source of Funds</b>		
GPR		
FED		
PRO/PRS		
SEG/SEG-S	50,600	
<b>III. State Revenues - Complete this only when proposal will increase or decrease state revenues (e.g., tax increase, decrease in license fee, etc.)</b>		
	Increased Rev	Decreased Rev
GPR Taxes	\$	\$
GPR Earned		
FED		
PRO/PRS		
SEG/SEG-S		-1,079,000
<b>TOTAL State Revenues</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$-1,079,000</b>
<b>NET ANNUALIZED FISCAL IMPACT</b>		
	<u>State</u>	<u>Local</u>
NET CHANGE IN COSTS	\$50,600	\$
NET CHANGE IN REVENUE	\$-1,079,000	\$
<b>Agency/Prepared By</b>		
<b>Authorized Signature</b>		<b>Date</b>
DNR/ Paul Neumann (608) 266-0818		1/3/2024
Paul Neumann (608) 266-0818		