

Fiscal Estimate - 2023 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 23-5090/1	Introduction Number AB-0818
Description reservations and fees for camping in certain state parks and modifying administrative rules of the Department of Natural Resources	
Fiscal Effect	
State:	
<input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate	
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs
Local:	
<input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate	
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue <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 0 <input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts	
Fund Sources Affected	
<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	
Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations	
Agency/Prepared By DNR/ Paul Neumann (608) 266-0818	Authorized Signature Paul Neumann (608) 266-0818
Date 1/4/2024	

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DNR 1/4/2024

LRB Number	23-5090/1	Introduction Number	AB-0818	Estimate Type	Original
Description reservations and fees for camping in certain state parks and modifying administrative rules of the Department of Natural Resources					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The bill modifies the process and fees for reserving camping sites in certain state parks, which are established by law and in administrative rules. Under the bill, for those campgrounds for which DNR has established these higher camping fees, residents may begin making reservations 11 months in advance and nonresidents may begin making reservations 14 days later. A resident who makes a reservation during the 14-day window before a nonresident may do so must pay the nonresident camping fee for each night of the reservation, in addition to the increased fee established by DNR.

Fiscal Impact

I. Revenue

A. Federal Land and Water Conservation (LAWCON) Funding

LAWCON funding from the National Parks Service (NPS) is used for capital development projects within the Wisconsin State Park System (WSPS) and is also used to provide grant projects for local units of Government. In fiscal year 2023, a total of \$4,977,000 (rounded) in LAWCON funding was provided, of which half was used for WSPS capital development projects and half was passed on as grants to local units of government.

The LAWCON program has specific language regarding the allocation of these funds and the regulations that must be met. This includes that there is no discrimination based on residence for any preferential reservation systems. And that reservation systems available to residents must also be available to nonresidents and the period of availability must be the same.

Therefore, it is assumed that the NPS would no longer allocate LAWCON funding to the department per the statutory changes prescribed in the bill, resulting in an annual estimated loss of \$4,977,000 in federal revenue.

B. Nonresident Camping Fee Revenue

The impact of the bill on nonresident camping fee revenue is difficult to estimate and is therefore considered to be indeterminate.

C. Resident Camping Fee Revenue

The bill will increase the cost to residents to reserve popular campsites by charging them the higher nonresident rate. This may result in some residents deciding not to camp within the WSPS; however, the impact of this on resident camping fee revenue is difficult to estimate and is therefore considered to be indeterminate.

II. One-Time Costs--Campsite Reservation System

The state contracted campsite reservation system does not have the capability to allow for staggered and differential reservation timelines and fees, nor do other large vendors that service most state park systems and the national park system. To custom design this type of process, the state would need to pay for a custom build by the current vendor at an estimated one-time cost of \$340,000 based on contracted rates for IT services and past project requests. There is no timeline for when this could be accomplished nor does the department have confirmation from the vendor that it could be done.

III. Ongoing Costs

A. Campsite Reservation System Management & Oversight

A modified campsite reservation system would require an additional full-time LTE to monitor for compliance and ensure that reservations are being properly made. It may be assumed that nonresidents could use false addresses to obtain reservations at the 11 month window. This program could also encourage manipulation of the 2 week maximum window to obtain reservations and then change or modify at a later date.

The annual cost for an LTE oversee the development, management and oversight of the changes is estimated at \$52,700 for salary and fringe benefits.

B. Additional Property-Specific Staff Resources

Additional staffing would be needed at properties where the changes are being implemented to ensure that reservations made during this time were being utilized by the reserving party and that residency is confirmed. Depending on the number of properties this would be implemented at, the estimate is an additional 500 hours per property of staff time at approximately \$19 per hour with fringe benefits for a total of \$9,500 per property. There are currently 8 properties that are considered high demand; therefore, total annual costs are estimated to be \$76,000.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Fiscal Estimate Worksheet - 2023 Session

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect

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Description reservations and fees for camping in certain state parks and modifying administrative rules of the Department of Natural Resources		
I. One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect): Estimated one-time cost of \$340,000 to modify the campsite reservation system to allow for staggered and differential reservation timelines and fees.		
II. Annualized Costs:		Annualized Fiscal Impact on funds from:
	Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
A. State Costs by Category		
State Operations - Salaries and Fringes	\$128,700	\$
(FTE Position Changes)		
State Operations - Other Costs		
Local Assistance		
Aids to Individuals or Organizations		
TOTAL State Costs by Category	\$128,700	\$
B. State Costs by Source of Funds		
GPR		
FED		
PRO/PRS		
SEG/SEG-S	128,700	
III. State Revenues - Complete this only when proposal will increase or decrease state revenues (e.g., tax increase, decrease in license fee, etc.)		
	Increased Rev	Decreased Rev
GPR Taxes	\$	\$
GPR Earned		
FED		-4,977,000
PRO/PRS		
SEG/SEG-S		
TOTAL State Revenues	\$	\$-4,977,000
NET ANNUALIZED FISCAL IMPACT		
	<u>State</u>	<u>Local</u>
NET CHANGE IN COSTS	\$128,700	\$
NET CHANGE IN REVENUE	\$-4,977,000	\$
Agency/Prepared By Authorized Signature Date		
DNR/ Paul Neumann (608) 266-0818	Paul Neumann (608) 266-0818	1/4/2024