

**JBC STAFF FISCAL ANALYSIS
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

CONCERNING THE AMOUNT A VETERAN MUST PAY TO ENTER STATE PARKS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

Prime Sponsors: Representative Ryden
Senator Crowder

JBC Analyst: Carly Jacobs
Phone: 303-866-2061
Date Prepared: April 15, 2015

Fiscal Impact of Bill as Amended to Date

The most recent Legislative Council Staff Revised Fiscal Note (attached) reflects the fiscal impact of the bill as of 04/15/15.

XXX	No Change: Attached LCS Fiscal Note accurately reflects the fiscal impact of the bill
	Update: Fiscal impact has changed due to <i>new information or technical issues</i>
	Update: Fiscal impact has changed due to <i>amendment adopted</i> after LCS Fiscal Note was prepared
	Non-Concurrence: JBC Staff and Legislative Council Staff disagree about the fiscal impact of the bill

Amendments in This Packet for Consideration by Appropriations Committee

Amendment	Description
J.001	Staff-prepared appropriation amendment
L.004/J.002	Bill Sponsor amendment - changes fiscal impact <i>and</i> appropriation

Current Appropriations Clause in Bill

The bill includes an appropriation clause that does not specify an amount required for FY 2015-16.

Description of Amendments in This Packet

J.001 Staff has prepared amendment **J.001** (attached) to change the existing clause to appropriate \$30,000 General Fund to the Department of Natural Resources for FY 2015-16.

L.004 and J.002

Bill Sponsor amendment **L.004** (attached): (1) changes the effective date of the bill from August 5, 2015 to a safety clause; (2) removes the January 1, 2016 deadline and directs the Parks & Wildlife Commission to promulgate a rule upon enactment; and (3) makes a small technical adjustment to rectify an earlier drafting error. JBC Staff and Legislative Council Staff agree that this amendment would make August 2015 the first month of free admission to state parks for veterans. This requires an appropriation for both the cost of initial implementation and operating expenses in FY 2015-16, including \$30,000 General Fund for the production of park passes and \$120,000 General Fund for lost revenue and additional

park maintenance. Staff has prepared amendment **J.002** (attached) to change the existing clause to appropriate \$150,000 General Fund to the Department of Natural Resources for FY 2015-16. **Please note that, if the Committee passes L.004, it should also pass J.002 but not J.001.**

Points to Consider

General Fund Impact

The Joint Budget Committee has proposed a budget package for FY 2015-16 based on the March 2015 Legislative Council Staff revenue forecast. The budget package allocates a total of \$18.5 million General Fund to be available to fund 2015 legislation. If the full \$18.5 million is not used to fund legislation, it will remain in the General Fund reserve.

Future Fiscal Impact

Although this bill would not require a General Fund appropriation for FY 2014-15, it is projected to require General Fund appropriations of \$30,000 in FY 2015-16 and \$125,000 in FY 2016-17 as currently written. If amendments **L.004** and **J.002** are adopted, the bill is projected to require General Fund appropriations of \$150,000 in FY 2015-16 and \$125,000 in FY 2016-17.

TABOR/ State Revenue Impact

The March 2015 Legislative Council Staff (LCS) revenue forecast projects a TABOR surplus liability which must be refunded to taxpayers out of the General Fund. Legislation that decreases non-exempt revenue (such as cash funds) to the State will decrease the TABOR refund made out of the General Fund. This bill is estimated to decrease cash fund revenues by \$70,000 per year as early as FY 2015-16.