

HOUSE BILL 936

M1, D4

7lr1310

By: **Delegate Simonaire**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2017

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland State Parks – Foster Family Pass – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources to develop a certain
4 Foster Family Pass; providing that any individual who provides foster care or
5 kinship care to a minor child in the State is eligible to receive the pass; specifying
6 the period of time for which the pass is valid; providing that there is no fee for the
7 pass; requiring an individual to apply for the pass in a certain manner; providing
8 that the pass exempts certain individuals from certain State parks admissions fees
9 and authorizes certain individuals to camp overnight at certain State parks free of
10 charge, under certain circumstances; requiring the Department of Natural
11 Resources to coordinate with the Department of Human Resources to establish a
12 process for verifying certain individuals' eligibility for the pass; requiring the
13 Department of Natural Resources to adopt certain regulations; defining certain
14 terms; and generally relating to the establishment of a Foster Family Pass.

15 BY adding to

16 Article – Natural Resources

17 Section 5–1011

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
21 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article – Natural Resources**

23 **5–1011.**

24 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
25 **INDICATED.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(2) "FOSTER CARE" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5-501 OF THE**
2 **FAMILY LAW ARTICLE.**

3 **(3) "HOLDER" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HOLDS A PASS ISSUED BY**
4 **THE DEPARTMENT UNDER THIS SECTION.**

5 **(4) "KINSHIP CARE" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5-501 OF THE**
6 **FAMILY LAW ARTICLE.**

7 **(5) "PASS" MEANS THE FOSTER FAMILY PASS ESTABLISHED UNDER**
8 **THIS SECTION.**

9 **(B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP A FOSTER FAMILY PASS.**

10 **(2) ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO PROVIDES FOSTER CARE OR KINSHIP CARE**
11 **TO A MINOR CHILD IN THE STATE IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE PASS.**

12 **(3) THE PASS SHALL BE VALID FOR A PERIOD DETERMINED BY THE**
13 **DEPARTMENT, WHICH MAY NOT BE LESS THAN 1 YEAR.**

14 **(4) THERE IS NO FEE FOR THE PASS.**

15 **(C) TO APPLY FOR THE PASS, AN INDIVIDUAL SHALL SUBMIT AN**
16 **APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT IN THE FORM THAT THE DEPARTMENT**
17 **REQUIRES.**

18 **(D) WHEN PRESENTED BY AN ELIGIBLE HOLDER ACCOMPANIED BY A MINOR**
19 **CHILD RECEIVING FOSTER CARE OR KINSHIP CARE FROM THE HOLDER, THE PASS:**

20 **(1) EXEMPTS THE HOLDER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOLDER'S**
21 **HOUSEHOLD FROM STATE PARKS ADMISSIONS FEES; AND**

22 **(2) AUTHORIZES THE HOLDER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOLDER'S**
23 **HOUSEHOLD TO CAMP OVERNIGHT IN ANY STATE PARK FREE OF CHARGE.**

24 **(E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

25 **(1) COORDINATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES**
26 **TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR VERIFYING THE ELIGIBILITY OF INDIVIDUALS WHO**
27 **APPLY FOR THE PASS; AND**

28 **(2) ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.**

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2017.