

SENATE BILL 161

M1

6lr0655

(PRE-FILED)

By: ~~Senator Simonaire~~ Senators Simonaire, Attar, Brooks, Carozza, Feldman, Harris, and Hester

Requested: July 24, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 7, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – State Park Entry Fee – Exemptions**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the individuals and vehicles that may enter a State park
4 without paying a certain fee on presentation of an accepted entrance document; and
5 generally relating to exemptions from paying State park entry fees.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Natural Resources
8 Section 5–1015
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Natural Resources**

14 5–1015.

15 (a) **IN THIS SECTION, “ACCEPTED ENTRANCE DOCUMENT” MEANS A VALID**
16 **VETERAN IDENTIFICATION CARD, A DRIVER’S LICENSE OR OTHER STATE–ISSUED**
17 **LICENSE OR IDENTIFICATION CARD THAT INDICATES THE HOLDER IS A VETERAN, OR**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 ANY OTHER FORM OF IDENTIFICATION ACCEPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT THAT
2 ESTABLISHES THE HOLDER’S:

3 (1) VETERAN STATUS; OR

4 (2) FORMER MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD STATUS IF THE HOLDER
5 WAS DISCHARGED OR RELEASED UNDER CONDITIONS OTHER THAN DISHONORABLE.

6 (B) On presentation of [a valid veteran identification card, a driver’s license that
7 indicates the license holder is a veteran, or any other form of identification accepted by the
8 Department that establishes the holder’s veteran status] AN ACCEPTED ENTRANCE
9 DOCUMENT BY AN INDIVIDUAL:

10 (1) [A veteran] THE INDIVIDUAL may enter a State park without paying
11 any day–use entry fee that has been established; and

12 (2) A vehicle of which [a veteran] THE INDIVIDUAL is an occupant may
13 enter a State park without paying any per–vehicle fee that has been established.

14 [(b)] (C) This section does not exempt [a veteran or other] AN individual from
15 paying any other facility use services fees not described in subsection [(a)] (B) of this
16 section.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 October 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.