

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 541 2022 Maryland Legislative Session

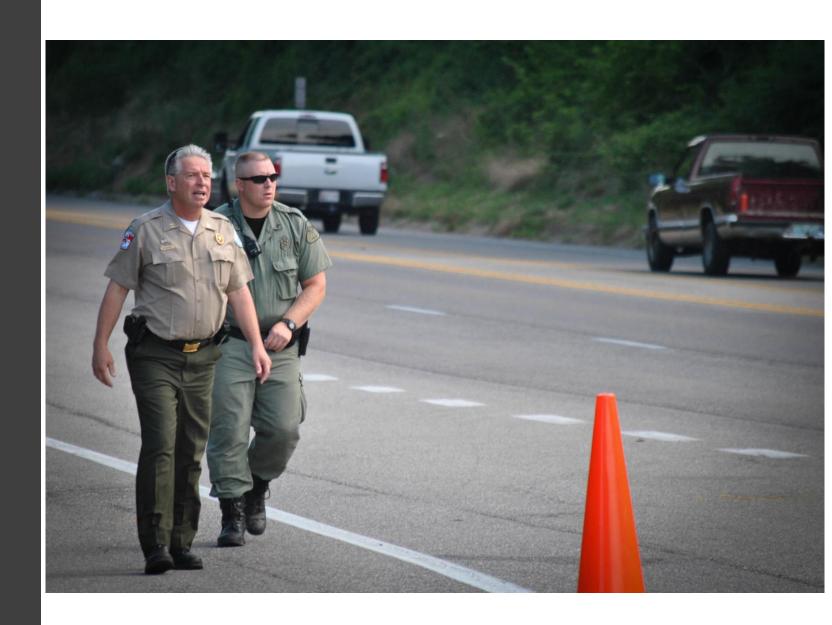
Great Maryland Outdoors Act

Daniel P. Spedden

President
Hagerstown/Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau
16 Public Square
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Office 301.791.3246 ext. 12 Fax 301.791.2601 Cell 301.991.0521 dan@visithagerstown.com That is me on the left being backed up by Natural Resource Police Officer Josh Keeny.

I am Dan Spedden and I managed Greenbrier State Park for 23 years from 1990 until my retirement in 2013.





Greenbrier State Park opens at 8:00 am, this is the scene at the park entrance at 6:00 am.

This is US Rt 40 a 50 mile per hour State Highway.









2.5 miles into adjoining Frederick County



It is two hours before opening time and there are 706 vehicles in line for 570 spaces in Greenbrier State Park. 136 cars are turned away immediately, Rangers will turn away would be visitors for the next 7 hours. This happened a record 25 times in 2016, 22 closures is a good average.



After entering
Greenbrier State Park,
cars meander along
the entrance lane to
the contact booth.

The traffic control operation has a high manpower demand.















This scenario is playing out all over the State with 18
State Parks reporting "Park Full" closures 12 of these parks experience closures with similar frequency to Greenbrier State Park.



The smiling faces of the occupants of the last car in.









The reward for being up early enough to make the 570-car cut.