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Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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The Senate of Maryland
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SB 161 – State Park IDs for Veterans

I am Senator Bryan Simonaire presenting SB 161.

I worked with the *Department of Natural Resources* on this consensus legislation.

This bill does 2 main things:

- 1) Expands the veteran identification allowed to enter a state park free of charge, and
- 2) Provides parity between those currently serving Maryland National Guard members and those who completed their service when it comes to entrance into our state parks.

First, under existing law, active-duty service members and all National Guard members are granted free access to State Parks.

However, the terminology used in the Veterans section excludes some members of the Maryland National Guard but served Maryland and fulfilled their obligations.

The bill ensures we honor former Maryland National Guard members and are granted free access to state parks as well.

Secondly, this bill expands the allowable identification forms used to allow veterans into state parks. With the recent passage of veteran notations on state professional licenses and identification cards, they are also now acceptable forms of identification.

That is the bill and for all these reasons, I ask for your favorable consideration.