



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

January 27, 2026

BILL NUMBER: **SENATE BILL 167**

SHORT TITLE: Natural Resources - State Park Entry Fee - Exemptions

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: **SUPPORT**

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT'S POSITION

The Department supports SB167, as it is a simple change that could improve outreach efforts to connect customers eligible for certain veteran benefits with available resources. Adding this notation to licenses would be a simple change within our existing systems and is not expected to have a fiscal or significant operational impact.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In the summer of 2025, the Department of Natural Resources launched its new online licensing system known as MD Outdoors. Residents and visitors can purchase Maryland hunting and fishing licenses as well as associated stamps and permits, boat and off-road vehicle renewal registration all through this online system. This online system could be amended to support veteran notations using existing departmental resources.

BILL EXPLANATION

This bill authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to establish a process to include a notation of veteran status on a license, permit, registration, or public profile. An applicant requesting a notation must indicate consent to (1) having a notation of veteran status on the applicant's license, permit, registration, or public profile and (2) being contacted by appropriate Executive Branch agencies about eligibility for State or federal veterans' benefits.

Contact: Lydia McPherson, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services
lydia.mcpherson1@maryland.gov ♦ 410-260-8113 (office) ♦ 443-875-7785 (cell)