



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

April 1, 2026

BILL NUMBER: **SENATE BILL 161 - THIRD READER**

SHORT TITLE: **NATURAL RESOURCES - STATE PARK ENTRY FEE - EXEMPTIONS**

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: **SUPPORT**

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT'S POSITION

The Department supports SB 161 as it is consistent with current practices. The Maryland Park Service day-use service charges are already waived for active duty military, veterans, and members of the National Guard. This bill does not expand day-use service charge exemptions or materially alter anticipated revenue streams for the Maryland Park Service, but rather serves to identify the exemption in the Natural Resource Article 5-1015 and offers clarified language. No fiscal impacts are anticipated.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Last year SB282/Chap. 265 added new sections 5-1014 and 5-1015 to the Natural Resources Article, which allow for additional forms of veteran verification to be used for fee entrance to state parks, and went into effect on October 1st of 2025. SB 161 further clarifies the types of acceptable veteran identification for free park entrance.

BILL EXPLANATION

This bill, SB 161, creates parity for all former Maryland National Guard members by clarifying the acceptable forms of identification that may be presented by a veteran to gain entry to State parks without paying a fee.