



WES MOORE
GOVERNOR
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

STATE OF MARYLAND
MILITARY DEPARTMENT
FIFTH REGIMENT ARMORY
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201-2288

JANEEN L. BIRCKHEAD
MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

March 30, 2026

Chair Marc Korman
Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair Korman and Members of The Committee:

The Maryland Military Department is sending this letter to ask for a favorable report for Senate Bill 161 – Natural Resources – State Park Entry Fee – Exemptions.

Senate Bill 161 modifies the rules for free entry into state parks by expanding and clarifying who qualifies and what identification may be used. Under the bill, certain individuals—such as veterans and former members of the Maryland National Guard discharged under conditions other than dishonorable—may enter state parks without paying the standard day-use fee.

Too often, former Maryland National Guard veterans are not included in the benefits and services afforded to their active-duty counterparts. Senate Bill 161 helps close this gap by allowing former members of the Maryland National Guard to visit Maryland’s beautiful state parks without paying the standard day-use entry fee, provided they present acceptable identification verifying their service.

The point of contact for this letter is Dr. Tony Campbell, reachable at (443) 956-0108, or tony.campbell1@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janeen L. Birckhead".

Janeen L. Birckhead
Major General, Maryland National Guard
The Adjutant General