

Bill as Introduced

SB 358-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2012 SESSION

12-2925
09/04

SENATE BILL

358-FN

AN ACT

expanding eligibility for free admission to the state park system to certain members and their families and retired members of the armed forces.

SPONSORS:

Sen. Sanborn, Dist 7; Sen. Lambert, Dist 13; Sen. Barnes, Jr., Dist 17; Sen. Boutin, Dist 16; Sen. Bradley, Dist 3; Sen. Carson, Dist 14; Sen. Forsythe, Dist 4; Sen. Gallus, Dist 1; Sen. Groen, Dist 6; Sen. Luther, Dist 12; Sen. Morse, Dist 22; Sen. Odell, Dist 8; Sen. White, Dist 9; Rep. Bettencourt, Rock 4; Rep. O'Brien, Hills 4; Rep. Baldasaro, Rock 3

COMMITTEE:

Finance

ANALYSIS

This bill expands eligibility for free admission to the state park system to certain members and their families and retired members of the armed forces.

Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.

Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through~~].

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twelve

AN ACT expanding eligibility for free admission to the state park system to certain members and their families and retired members of the armed forces.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Free Admission to State Park System for Certain Active and Retired Members of the Armed
2 Forces. Amend RSA 216-A:3-g, V(a)-(c) to read as follows:

3 (a) Any active member of [~~a federally recognized unit of the New Hampshire national~~
4 ~~guard~~] ***the armed forces*** who is a legal resident of this state, and who meets the minimum
5 requirements for satisfactory membership, as defined in [~~the United States Department of the Army~~
6 ~~and the United States Department of the Air Force~~] ***federal*** regulations[, ~~and is serving in pay~~
7 ~~grades E1 through E6~~] shall not be charged a fee for admission to the state park system. This
8 section shall apply to members of the Active Guard and Reserve program in the New Hampshire
9 national guard.

10 (b) Any ***retired member of the armed forces who is a*** New Hampshire [~~national~~
11 ~~guard member~~] ***resident*** [~~who retired in pay grade E6 or below~~] shall not be charged a fee for day-
12 use admission to the state park system.

13 (c) ***Any active member of the armed forces who is home on leave from active duty***
14 ***shall not be charged an admission fee to the state park system during the time of leave for***
15 ***the member, the member's spouse, and the member's children.***

16 (d) Any fees for the use of enterprise activities as described in paragraph II of this
17 section shall be charged.

18 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

LBAO
12-2925
12/01/11

SB 358-FN - FISCAL NOTE

AN ACT expanding eligibility for free admission to the state park system to certain members and their families and retired members of the armed forces.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Department of Resources and Economic Development states this bill will decrease state restricted revenue by an indeterminable amount in FY 2012 and each year thereafter. There is no fiscal impact on state, county and local expenditures, or county and local revenue.

METHODOLOGY:

The Department of Resources and Economic Development states this bill clarifies the fees charged to members of the US armed forces for entrance to state parks. The Department states it is not able to determine the number of active, retired, or honorable discharged members of the US uniformed services, who are residents of NH or their spouses and dependent children that would take advantage of the free admission to the state parks to determine by how much revenue would decrease. DRED does know that 2,277 NH National Guard and NH disabled vets received free admission to NH parks through September 29, 2011.

SB 358-FN – AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

02/08/12 0427s

9May2012... 1929h

2012 SESSION

12-2925

09/04

SENATE BILL 358-FN

AN ACT relative to eligibility for free admission to the state park system for members of the armed forces.

SPONSORS: Sen. Sanborn, Dist 7; Sen. Lambert, Dist 13; Sen. Barnes, Jr., Dist 17; Sen. Boutin, Dist 16; Sen. Bradley, Dist 3; Sen. Carson, Dist 14; Sen. Forsythe, Dist 4; Sen. Gallus, Dist 1; Sen. Groen, Dist 6; Sen. Luther, Dist 12; Sen. Morse, Dist 22; Sen. Odell, Dist 8; Sen. White, Dist 9; Rep. Bettencourt, Rock 4; Rep. O'Brien, Hills 4; Rep. Baldasaro, Rock 3

COMMITTEE: Finance

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill changes eligibility requirements for free admission to the state park system for members of the armed forces.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in *bold italics*.

Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

02/08/12 0427s

9May2012... 1929h

12-2925

09/04

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twelve

AN ACT relative to eligibility for free admission to the state park system for members of the armed forces.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 Free Admission to State Park System for Members of the Armed Forces. RSA 216-A:3-g, V is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

V.(a) Upon presentation of military identification, any active member of the armed forces who meets the minimum requirements for satisfactory membership, as defined in federal regulations, shall not be charged a fee for admission to day-use areas of the state park system. In this section, "armed forces" means armed forces as defined in RSA 21:50, II and includes active and reserve members of the New Hampshire national guard.

(b) Any fees for the use of enterprise activities as described in paragraph II of this section shall be charged.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

LBAO

12-2925

Amended 02/21/12

SB 358 FISCAL NOTE

AN ACT relative to eligibility for free admission to the state park system for members of the armed forces.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Department of Resources and Economic Development states this bill, **as amended by the Senate (Amendment #2012-0427s)**, will decrease state restricted revenue by an indeterminable amount in FY 2012 and each year thereafter. There is no fiscal impact on state, county and local expenditures, or county and local revenue.

METHODOLOGY:

The Department of Resources and Economic Development states this bill clarifies the fees charged to members of the US armed forces for entrance to state parks. The Department states it is not able to determine the number of active, retired, or honorable discharged members of the US uniformed services, who are residents of NH or their spouses and dependent children that would take advantage of the free

admission to the state parks to determine by how much revenue would decrease. The Department does know that 2,277 NH National Guard and NH disabled vets received free admission to NH parks through September 29, 2011. The Department states, per the FY 2010 Department of Affairs annual benefits report, that there are 127,964 veterans in NH. The Department assumes a veteran is retired from active service. The Department estimates between 9,207 to 73,579 veterans in NH would be below the age of 65 and eligible for free admission to the state parks. Based on this estimate, state park fund revenue may decrease between \$36,828 (9,207 veterans * \$4 park day use fee) to \$294,316 (73,579 veterans * \$4 park day use fee).

SB 358-FN - FINAL VERSION

02/08/12 0427s
9May2012... 1929h

2012 SESSION

12-2925
09/04

SENATE BILL **358-FN**

AN ACT relative to eligibility for free admission to the state park system for members of the armed forces.

SPONSORS: Sen. Sanborn, Dist 7; Sen. Lambert, Dist 13; Sen. Barnes, Jr., Dist 17; Sen. Boutin, Dist 16; Sen. Bradley, Dist 3; Sen. Carson, Dist 14; Sen. Forsythe, Dist 4; Sen. Gallus, Dist 1; Sen. Groen, Dist 6; Sen. Luther, Dist 12; Sen. Morse, Dist 22; Sen. Odell, Dist 8; Sen. White, Dist 9; Rep. Bettencourt, Rock 4; Rep. O'Brien, Hills 4; Rep. Baldasaro, Rock 3

COMMITTEE: Finance

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill changes eligibility requirements for free admission to the state park system for members of the armed forces.

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Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

SB 358-FN - FINAL VERSION

02/08/12 0427s
9May2012... 1929h

12-2925
09/04

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twelve

AN ACT relative to eligibility for free admission to the state park system for members of the armed forces.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Free Admission to State Park System for Members of the Armed Forces. RSA 216-A:3-g, V is
2 repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

3 V.(a) Upon presentation of military identification, any active member of the armed forces
4 who meets the minimum requirements for satisfactory membership, as defined in federal
5 regulations, shall not be charged a fee for admission to day-use areas of the state park system. In
6 this section, "armed forces" means armed forces as defined in RSA 21:50, II and includes active and
7 reserve members of the New Hampshire national guard.

8 (b) Any fees for the use of enterprise activities as described in paragraph II of this
9 section shall be charged.

10 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

LBAO
12-2925
Amended 05/17/12

SB 358-FN - FISCAL NOTE

AN ACT relative to eligibility for free admission to the state park system for members of the armed forces.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Department of Resources and Economic Development states this bill, as amended by the House (Amendment #2012-1929h), will have no fiscal impact on state, county, and local revenue and expenditures.

METHODOLOGY:

The Department of Resources and Economic Development states this bill relates to the eligibility for free admission to the state park system for members of the armed forces. The Department states in its 2012 fee package for the state park system adopted by the Fiscal Committee of the General Court on April 13, 2012, provisions to grant free day-use admission to state parks for active members of any military branch, including active and reserve members of the NH National Guard were included. Therefore, this bill will not change the park revenue projected by the Department.

Amendments

Sen. Sanborn, Dist 7
January 19, 2012
2012-0291s
09/04



Amendment to SB 358-FN

1 Amend RSA 216-A:3-g, V(b) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

2

3 (b) Any *retired member of the armed forces who was honorably discharged and*
4 *who is a New Hampshire* [~~national-guard-member~~] *resident* [~~who retired in pay grade E6 or below~~]
5 shall not be charged a fee for day-use admission to the state park system.

Senate Finance
January 27, 2012
2012-0427s
09/10



Amendment to SB 358-FN

1 Amend RSA 216-A:3-g, V(b) as inserted by section I of the bill by replacing it with the following:

2

3 (b) Any *retired member of the armed forces who was honorably discharged and*
4 *who is a New Hampshire* [~~national guard member~~] *resident* [~~who retired in pay grade E6 or below~~]
5 shall not be charged a fee for day-use admission to the state park system.

Rep. Lovett, Sull. 4
Rep. C. Christensen, Hills. 19
May 1, 2012
2012-1929h
09/10

Amendment to SB 358-FN

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT relative to eligibility for free admission to the state park system for members of the armed forces.

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 Free Admission to State Park System for Members of the Armed Forces. RSA 216-A:3-g, V is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

V.(a) Upon presentation of military identification, any active member of the armed forces who meets the minimum requirements for satisfactory membership, as defined in federal regulations, shall not be charged a fee for admission to day-use areas of the state park system. In this section, "armed forces" means armed forces as defined in RSA 21:50, II and includes active and reserve members of the New Hampshire national guard.

(b) Any fees for the use of enterprise activities as described in paragraph II of this section shall be charged.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

2012-1929h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill changes eligibility requirements for free admission to the state park system for members of the armed forces.

Committee Minutes

**SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE
FINANCE**

Senator Chuck Morse Chairman
 Senator Bob Odell V Chairman
 Senator John Barnes, Jr.
 Senator Peter Bragdon
 Senator Lou D'Allesandro
 Senator Jeanie Forrester
 Senator John Gallus

For Use by Senate Clerk's Office ONLY	
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Proof: <input type="checkbox"/>	Calendar <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Status

Date: December 29, 2011

HEARINGS

Thursday

1/5/2012

FINANCE

SH 103

1:00 PM

(Name of Committee)

(Place)

(Time)

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1:00 PM SB376</p> <p>1:15 PM SB358-FN</p> <p>1:30 PM SB323</p> <p>1:45 PM SB309-FN-A</p> | <p>extending the committee to develop a plan for privatizing the department of corrections.</p> <p>expanding eligibility for free admission to the state park system to certain members and their families and retired members of the armed forces.</p> <p>authorizing accounting transfers by the department of corrections.</p> <p>making appropriations to the university system of New Hampshire and the community college system.</p> |
|---|--|

Sponsors:

SB376

Sen. Jeanie Forrester
 Sen. John Gallus

Sen. Andy Sanborn
 Rep. Joseph Krasucki

Sen. Chuck Morse
 Rep. Russell Ober

Rep. Dan McGuire

SB358-FN

Sen. Andy Sanborn
 Sen. Jeb Bradley
 Sen. Fenton Groen
 Sen. Raymond White

Sen. Gary Lambert
 Sen. Sharon Carson
 Sen. Jim Luther
 Rep. David Bettencourt

Sen. John Barnes, Jr.
 Sen. James Forsythe
 Sen. Chuck Morse
 Rep. William O'Brien

Sen. David Boutin
 Sen. John Gallus
 Sen. Bob Odell
 Rep. Alfred Baldasaro

SB323

Sen. Chuck Morse

Rep. Kenneth Weyler

Sen. Bob Odell

Sen. John Barnes, Jr.

SB309-FN-A

Sen. Molly Kelly

Sen. Sylvia Larsen

Finance Committee

Hearing Report

TO: Members of the Senate

FROM: Shannon Whitehead, Legislative Aide

RE: Hearing report on SB 358-FN – expanding eligibility for free admission to the state park system to certain members and their families and retired members of the armed forces.

HEARING DATE: Janaury 5, 2012

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE PRESENT: Senators: Forrester, Bragdon, Morse, Odell, Barnes, D'Allesandro, and Gallus

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ABSENT: No one

Sponsor(s): Sen. Sanborn, Dist 7; Sen. Lambert, Dist 13; Sen. Barnes, Jr., Dist 17; Sen. Boutin, Dist 16; Sen. Bradley, Dist 3; Sen. Carson, Dist 14; Sen. Forsythe, Dist 4; Sen. Gallus, Dist 1; Sen. Groen, Dist 6; Sen. Luther, Dist 12; Sen. Morse, Dist 22; Sen. Odell, Dist 8; Sen. White, Dist 9; Rep. Bettencourt, Rock 4; Rep. O'Brien, Hills 4; Rep. Baldasaro, Rock 3

What the bill does: This bill expands eligibility for free admission to the state park system to certain members and their families and retired members of the armed forces.

Who supports the bill: Sen. Luther, Senator Groen, Senator Carson, Senator Boutin, Senator Lambert, Mary Morin-Director of N.H. Office of Veteran Services, Rep. Al Baldasaro, Audrey Blodgett and Mary Thayer.

Who opposes the bill: No one appeared in opposition

Summary of testimony received:

Senator Sanborn: Prime Sponsor of the bill. Asking for consideration if we could temporarily postpone testimony on this bill as there are a number of people who could not make it that I feel are an important discussion not to the not too mention the Department of Resources and Economic Development, specifically as this is part of their process, as well as some of our active and inactive retired military personnel and families who would have liked to be here today and could not.

Senator Morse: I would like to continue this hearing on the 19th of this month. I will open the hearing to anyone that was present for today's hearing.

Senator Barnes: On page one of the bill, line 10. There is a correction I would like to fix- Honorably discharged. Senator Sanborn responded that, that is a very realistic request and would completely support that.

Audrey Blodgett: Read a statement on behalf of her sister, Mary Thayer who is present in the committee room. Mary Thayer's son was a Marine that was denied a military discount at a state park.

Last summer my son and his family were home on leave and we wanted to take the grand kids up to the White Mountains. After going online I saw that the Flume offered military discounts, so we decided to go there. When we got there my son showed his military ID and was told that he didn't qualify for the discount. He was embarrassed and humiliated. He had 15 years of service.

When we got home I called the Department of Resources and Economic Development and was told that National Guardsmen qualified for the discount. I then called my Representatives and Senator to remedy the situation. As a wife and mother of Marines that have proudly and honorably served this country- my husband served in Desert Shield and Desert Storm and my son has had four tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. I know that they do not ask for, or expect special treatment of any kind. My issue is that the Flume should not have indicated that they give military discounts and then not give active duty military discount. I am grateful to all other men and women who have served and protected this country and I think if the State of N.H is going to say "Military discount" it should be given to all military, not just National Gaurdsmen.

Hearing was recessed at 1:18pm to January 19th 012.

Funding:

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Department of Resources and Economic Development states this bill will decrease state restricted revenue by an indeterminable amount in FY 2012 and each year thereafter. There is no fiscal impact on state, county and local expenditures, or county and local revenue.

Methodology:

The Department of Resources and Economic Development states this bill clarifies the fees charged to members of the US armed forces for entrance to state parks. The Department states it is not able to determine the number of

active, retired, or honorable discharged members of the US
uniformed services, who are residents of NH or their spouses and dependent
children that would take advantage of the free admission to the state parks
to determine by how much revenue would decrease. DRED does know that
2,277 NH National Guard and NH disabled vets received free admission to
NH parks through September 29, 2011

Future Action: The bill was opened and recessed requested by the Prime
Sponsor. The bill will be scheduled for January 19, 2012

sgw

[file: SB 358 report]

Date: Janaury 9, 2012

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

State House, Room 103
Concord, NH
Thursday, January 5, 2012

SENATE BILL 358-FN, AN ACT expanding eligibility for free admission to the state park system to certain members and their families and retired members of the armed forces.

TESTIMONY OF:

Sen. Andy Sanborn. Pg. 1
Audrey Blodgett. Pg. 3

CHAIRMAN MORSE: We'll start the hearing on Senate Bill 358 and ask the prime sponsor to introduce the legislation.

ANDY SANBORN, State Senator, Senate District #7:
Thank you, Mr. Chair, Members of the Committee, Mr. President. Hum -- I'm here asking for consideration if we could temporarily postpone testimony on this bill as there are a number of people who could not make it that I feel are important to the discussion, not to mention the Department of Resources and Economic Development specifically as this is part of their process and as well as some of our active and inactive retired military personnel and families would like to be here who could not be here today. So with respect, I ask if we could delay testimony on this for a date certain from the Chair.

CHAIRMAN MORSE: Senator, we'd like to continue this hearing to the 19th of this month. But anyone that's here that would like to testify today, we'd accept that testimony. I only have two people who want to speak today. Maybe the Representative wants to hold his testimony until --

ALFRED BALDASARO, State Representative, Rockingham County, District #3: I'll wait.

SEN. SANBORN: I completely concur and with that I'd be happy to talk a little about the bill.

CHAIRMAN MORSE: Well, do you want to hold that till the 19th and we'll just do it all on the 19th?

SEN. SANBORN: If you'd like, I'm happy to.

CHAIRMAN MORSE: Committee in favor of that? Senator Barnes.

SEN. BARNES: I have a question for the Senator.

CHAIRMAN MORSE: Okay.

SEN. BARNES: Senator, Page 1 of the bill.

SEN. SANBORN: Yes, sir.

SEN. BARNES: Line 10. You have a problem. Adding two words to the verbiage and the two words are honorably discharged.

SEN. SANBORN: That's a very realistic request and I'd completely support that.

SEN. BARNES: Thank you, Senator.

CHAIRMAN MORSE: All right. We'll work that one out with an Amendment. Anyone else have any questions for Senator Sanborn? All right. Senator Sanborn, we'll set it up for the 19th and you will probably go first.

SEN. SANBORN: Thank you, sir. Thank you, everybody.

CHAIRMAN MORSE: Anyone else wishing to speak on

Senate Finance Committee

January 5, 2012

Senate Bill 358-FN

Senate Bill 358?

AUDREY BLODGETT: Yes, Mr. Chair. Good afternoon. I do have some extra copies of the testimony. I don't know if anybody needs them.

SHANNON WHITEHEAD, Legislative Aide, New Hampshire Senate: Thank you.

MS. BLODGETT: My name is Audrey Blodgett. I am reading this statement on behalf of my sister, Mary Thayer, who's also here, whose son was the Marine who was denied a military discount at a state park. So this is Mary's statement.

Last summer, my son and his family were home on leave and we wanted to take the grand kids up to the White Mountains. After going online, I saw that the Flume offered military discounts so we decided to go there. When we got there, my son showed his military ID and was told that he didn't qualify for the discount. I wish I could have taken a picture of my son's face when he walked away from that window. He was embarrassed and humiliated. First, because he asked for it in the first place, which he never does, and then to basically be told that your 15 years of dedicated service and your four deployments isn't enough to be considered military. I am sure there are military people here who would understand that feeling. I, as his mother, found this to be unacceptable.

When we got home, I called the Department of Resources and Economic Development and was told that National Guardsmen qualified for the discount. I then called all my representatives and my Senator to see what could be done to remedy the situation. Representative Jennifer Coffey and I discussed the matter at great length, and she agreed with me that this statute needed to change.

As a wife and mother of Marines that have proudly and honorably served this country, my husband served in -- I'm

Senate Finance Committee

January 5, 2012

Senate Bill 358-FN

sorry. My husband served in Desert Shield and Desert Storm and my son has had four tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. I know that they do not ask for or expect special treatment of any kind. My issue is that the Flume should not have indicated that they give military discounts and then not give active duty military that discount.

I am very proud of my son and my husband, and I'm grateful to all other men and women who have served and protected this country. And I think that if the State of New Hampshire is going to say military discount, it should be given to all military, not just National Guardsmen. Thank you for your time.

CHAIRMAN MORSE: Thank you. Any questions? Thank you very much. Anyone else wishing to testify on Senate Bill 358? I'll accept a motion to continue to January 19th at 1 o'clock.

** SEN. ODELL: So moved.

SEN. BRAGDON: Second.

CHAIRMAN MORSE: Seconded. All in favor?

*** {MOTION ADOPTED}

CHAIRMAN MORSE: Senator Sanborn, we'll see you at one o'clock on the 19th.

SEN. SANBORN: Yes, sir, you will.

(Hearing recessed at 1:18 p.m. to January 19, 2012.)

CERTIFICATION

I, Cecelia A. Trask, a Licensed Court Reporter-Shorthand, hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate transcript from my shorthand notes taken on said date to the best of my ability, skill, knowledge and judgment.

Cecelia A. Trask

Cecelia A. Trask, LSR, RMR, CRR
State of New Hampshire
License No. 47

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my

Senate Finance Committee

January 5, 2012

Senate Bill 358-FN

SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE

FINANCE

Senator Chuck Morse Chairman
 Senator Bob Odell V Chairman
 Senator John Barnes, Jr.
 Senator Peter Bragdon
 Senator Lou D'Allesandro
 Senator Jeanie Forrester
 Senator John Gallus

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Proof: <input type="checkbox"/>	Calendar <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Status

Date: January 12, 2012

HEARINGS

Thursday

1/19/2012

FINANCE

SH 103

1:00 PM

(Name of Committee)

(Place)

(Time)

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

Comments: Please note SB 358-FN was recessed on 1/5/12. Following the Senate Bill hearings the Legislative Budget office will be reviewing a report of areas of concern in the Department of Health and Human Services Budget.

1:00 PM	SB358-FN	expanding eligibility for free admission to the state park system to certain members and their families and retired members of the armed forces.
1:20 PM	SB326-FN-A-L	relative to state reimbursement of towns for upkeep of dams under the Merrimack River Flood Control Compact and the Connecticut River Flood Control Compact.
1:35 PM	SB314-FN	relative to state-owned vehicle fleet management.

Sponsors:

SB358-FN

Sen. Andy Sanborn
 Sen. Jeb Bradley
 Sen. Fenton Groen
 Sen. Raymond White

Sen. Gary Lambert
 Sen. Sharon Carson
 Sen. Jim Luther
 Rep. David Bettencourt

Sen. John Barnes, Jr.
 Sen. James Forsythe
 Sen. Chuck Morse
 Rep. William O'Brien

Sen. David Boutin
 Sen. John Gallus
 Sen. Bob Odell
 Rep. Alfred Baldasaro

SB326-FN-A-L

Sen. Andy Sanborn

Rep. David Bettencourt

Rep. William O'Brien

SB314-FN

Sen. Chuck Morse
 Rep. Kenneth Weyler

Sen. Jim Rausch

Sen. Jeb Bradley

Sen. Lou D'Allesandro

2nd Hearing

Finance Committee

Hearing Report

TO: Members of the Senate

FROM: Shannon Whitehead, Legislative Aide

RE: Hearing report on SB 358-FN – **expanding eligibility for free admission to the state park system to certain members and their families and retired members of the armed forces.**

HEARING DATE: January 19, 2012- This bill was recessed on 1/5/12

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE PRESENT: Senators: Morse, Bragdon, Forrester, Odell, D’Allesandro, Barnes and Gallus

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ABSENT: No one

Sponsor(s): Sen. Sanborn, Dist 7; Sen. Lambert, Dist 13; Sen. Barnes, Jr., Dist 17; Sen. Boutin, Dist 16; Sen. Bradley, Dist 3; Sen. Carson, Dist 14; Sen. Forsythe, Dist 4; Sen. Gallus, Dist 1; Sen. Groen, Dist 6; Sen. Luther, Dist 12; Sen. Morse, Dist 22; Sen. Odell, Dist 8; Sen. White, Dist 9; Rep. Bettencourt, Rock 4; Rep. O’Brien, Hills 4; Rep. Baldasaro, Rock 3

What the bill does: This bill expands eligibility for free admission to the state park system to certain members and their families and retired members of the armed forces.

Who supports the bill: Senator Sharon Carson (District 14) Senator Luther (District 12) Senator Groen (District 6) Senator Lambert (District 13) Senator Gallus (District 1) Jean Durgin (GSM) Mary Morin (N.H. Office of Veterans Services) Senator Nancy Stiles (District 24) Senator James Forsythe (District 4)

Please also refer to sign in sheets from 1/5/12

Neutral to the bill: Philip Bryce (Director of NH Parks and Recreation, DRED)

Who opposes the bill: No one appeared in opposition

Summary of testimony received: Hearing started at 1:03pm

Senator Sanborn: Prime sponsor. Some times in Government, we make honest mistakes, where there was no intent to do any wrong, and this is one of those times. Through no fault of any public official, today we have a gap in consideration on how we, as a state, are respecting and honoring our military.

Today our state offers free admission to our state parks for E1 through E6 members of the National Guard. While I support this provision, I also believe we should honor and respect all who have sacrificed to defend what we believe in. I am respectfully requesting we expand our eligibility for admission to our park system.

SB 358 requests that we provide free admission to any active duty personnel and their immediate family, if they are home on leave, and to provide free access to our state parks to any honorably discharges, retired member of our armed forces.

This request arose when the son of one of my constituents, Mary Thayer's son, Gunnery Sargent Richard Thayer was denied discounted access, after his family saw the consideration on our states website. I believe that after 15 years of service and 4 deployments defending all that we believe in, qualifies for consideration, as do all those who defend us.

I do understand there are concerns of a financial impact to DRED and our state park system, but acknowledging the primary expense is of a fixed nature, the impact will be minimal. This legislation is by no means meant to be a negative reflection on our employees and staff at DRED, but only our unintended mistake which we can correct and show our military personnel we honor and thank them for their service.

*Submitted Amendment: 0291s which changed language to any retired member of the armed forces who was honorably discharged.

*Submitted a spreadsheet of "Free use for National Guard and Disabled Veterans."

Jean Durgin: In support of the bill. Gold Star Mother. Has a son serving in the Air Guard in Maryland. Understands the financial difficulties, but How much would this really cost for our men and women that are serving?

Sen. Barnes: Are all parks 4 dollars to enter? Do we have something in place for donations?

Philip Bryce said no not all. There are two things we can accept donation from Governor and Council approval, a certain amount. By \$2,500. They could make a check to the Division of Parks and Recreation.

Philip Bryce: We do not take a position on this bill. The Division supports the principles of SB 358 and we recognize the contribution and sacrifices that the members of the armed forces have made. The Division added to its 2012 Fee package free day-use admission to all members of the armed forces. It is long standing practice for the Division to bring its fee package to legislature for approval through fiscal committee pursuant to RSA 216-A:3-g. This process allows the division to remain responsive to changes in the seasonal, outdoor recreation marketplace, and to maintain financial flexibility as an operationally self funded agency. We endeavor a fee system that is easy and quick for toll booth staff to get visitors into the parks. The Division's 2012 Fee Package is scheduled for review and approval by the Fiscal Committee January 20, 2012.

The difference between the fee package and SB 358 are as follows:

- The fee package proposes granting free admission regardless of residency. There are members of the military who are stationed I NH who are not necessarily residents. We do not make distinction in park fees between residents and non residents to emphasize the importance of visitors to the state to the economy
- We did not include retired members of the armed forces or active members spouse and children because we followed the current legislation providing access for guard members that covers just the active duty members
- We did a discount on function space and free use of function space for send off and welcome centers.

The Division currently provides free admission to active and retired NH national guard pay grades E1-E6 and to NH Disabled veterans the total populations of armed forces in NH is 131, 266 the estimated total value of this extended benefit is \$66,000.

The Division carefully considers such fiscal impacts as we are operationally self-funded

Sen. Odell: On page 2 of the letter you have submitted in regard to Fiscal and our finance committee, if you pass the fee package and the legislature to be changed. Which means what you enforce can be changed? So we can approve in Fiscal tomorrow, we have two moving pieces here. We would take a similar position as we did here?

Sen. Bragdon: The fee package comes to fiscal and it takes effect on a certain day. The whole purpose there must be a start package. There is a time lag usually. If we are approved, we will have be looking at April or May.

Sen. Stiles: In full support the portion for active military, but my concern is that we expect our state parks to be self sustaining we are allowing too many legislators, handicap and over 65, etc) into our parks at no cost. I think we

need to realign our state park fees and most definitely allow active military and families into our parks free. As for other groups perhaps there could be a discounted rate.

Hearing closed at 1:20pm

Funding:

Fiscal Impact:

The Department of Resources and Economic Development states this bill will decrease state restricted revenue by an indeterminable amount in FY 2012 and each year thereafter. There is no fiscal impact on state, county and local expenditures, or county and local revenue.

Methodology:

The Department of Resources and Economic Development states this bill clarifies the fees charged to members of the US armed forces for entrance to state parks. The Department states it is not able to determine the number of active, retired, or honorable discharged members of the US uniformed services, who are residents of NH or their spouses and dependent children that would take advantage of the free admission to the state parks to determine by how much revenue would decrease. DRED does know that 2,277 NH National Guard and NH disabled vets received free admission to NH parks through September 29, 2011.

Future Action: Pending

sgw

[file: SB 358-FN report]

Date: 1/24/12

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

State House, Room 103

Concord, NH

Thursday, January 19, 2012

SENATE BILL 358-FN, AN ACT expanding eligibility for free admission to the state park system to certain members and their families and retired members of the armed forces.

TESTIMONY OF:

Sen. Andy Sanborn.	Pg. 1
Jean Durgin.	Pg. 3
Philip Bryce	Pg. 4
Sen. Nancy Stiles.	Pg. 9

(Hearing convened at 1:03 p.m.)

CHAIRMAN MORSE: Okay. Senate Bill 358 we recessed last time, and we'll continue the hearing right now. Senator Sanborn.

ANDY SANBORN, State Senator, District #7: Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. Members of the Committee, thank you very much. And again, I apologize. My voice is still struggling but we are feeling better. I continue from where we were last time, I introduced Senate Bill 358 as consideration to expand our eligibility of who's allowed to go our state parks. You know, sometimes in government we make honest mistakes where there's no intent to do any wrong, and I believe that this is one of those times. Through no-fault of any public official, today we have a gap in our consideration on how we, as a state, are respecting and honoring our military.

As some of you know, today our State offers free admission to our parks for classified E-1 through E-6 National Guard, which is private through sergeant. While I support this provision, I also believe we should honor and respect all those who have sacrificed to defend what we

believe in. As such, I'm respectfully requesting we expand our eligibility for admission to our park system. Senate Bill 358 requests that we provide free admission to any active duty personnel and their immediate family if they are home on leave, and that we provide free access to our state parks to any honorably discharged retired members of our armed forces.

As relates to that, I do have an amendment which I've handed out today to specifically include the words honorably discharged on our retired members, per the request of Senator Barnes.

As you know, this request arose when the son of my one of my constituents, Mary Thayer, who's here today, her son Gunnery Sergeant Richard Thayer, was denied discounted access after his family saw the consideration for such on one of our websites when he was home on leave from Afghanistan. I believe that after 15 years of service, four deployments, defending all that we believe in, qualifies for this consideration as do all those who defend us.

Now, I do understand there exists the concern of a financial impact from the Department of Resources and Economic Development in our state park system. But I ask you to acknowledge that I'm hoping the primary expense as we should understand is one of a fixed nature and not as much variable. As we need to maintain and staff these parks whether we have one visitor or three. So I assume that the financial impact for us will be minimal.

Again, I stress this legislation is by no means meant to be a negative reflection on our employees or the staff at DRED, but only our unintended mistake that we can correct and show our military personnel we honor and thank them for their services. As such, I ask that you please support this important legislation.

I have also provided for review, again, thanks to the

Senate Finance Committee

January 19, 2012

Senate Bill 358-FN

wonderful people over at DRED, a listing of our state parks and what our population is showing that today we have about 2200 out of two hundred sixty -- 307,000 people in attendance that have utilized our park system being through the National Guard or we presently have a consideration for those who are disabled. And with that, I'm available to take any questions you might have and ask for your support.

CHAIRMAN MORSE: Any questions for Senator Sanborn? If not, thank you, Senator.

SEN. SANBORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN MORSE: Senator Carson, Senator Luther, Senator Groen, Senator Lambert, Senator Gallus, have all signed in in favor. Mary Morin from New Hampshire Offices of Veterans Services signed in in favor. And Philip Bryce from DRED signed in in favor. Jean Durgin would like to speak.

JEAN DURGIN, Henniker, NH: Did you want me to speak?

CHAIRMAN MORSE: If you'd like to.

MS. DURGIN: Good morning or good afternoon, I guess. My name is Jean Durgin. I am a Gold Star mother. I'm also a Blue Star mother. Hello, Senator Barnes. Nice to see you again.

SEN. BARNES: Nice to see you. Would you do me a favor?

MS. DURGIN: Yes.

SEN. BARNES: Would you please sit down and make yourself comfortable. This is a very friendly group here so don't be nervous.

MS. DURGIN: Well, I'm glad to hear that. I'm here in favor of this bill because when I heard what had happened to Richard Thayer, I was irate. And I tried to imagine what

I would have done had my son gone to one of these parks and been denied a discount. Hum -- probably you would not want to have heard me, and I think Mrs. Thayer is probably nicer than I am. I have a son who is now serving in the Air Guard in Maryland and he does come to New Hampshire frequently. I'm hoping that he will find it in his favor to move back to New Hampshire and will take advantage of these lovely parks that we have here.

I understand the financial difficulties at this time. However, how much would it cost to allow our men and women who are serving, and believe me, I don't think any of them are getting rich. Would Tom Brady have to pay the full amount if he showed up today? I would be willing to bet not. If you would like, I'll pass a hat and collect money so that these men and women can go to the parks free of charge. This is our country. They are serving our country, and they certainly are not packing away any riches. Would you like to ask me any questions.

CHAIRMAN MORSE: No. Thank you for coming. We appreciate it. Okay.

MS. DURGIN: See you again.

SEN. BARNES: I hope so.

CHAIRMAN MORSE: Would anyone else like to testify on Senate Bill 358? Phil.

PHILIP BRYCE, Director, Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Resources and Economic Development: Yes, Chairman Morse. I'm sorry. I must have gotten distracted. I forgot to check the speaking box so I'll be brief. I have a copy of written testimony and go through it real -- very quickly and leave you the opportunity to ask any questions.

For the record, my name is Philip Bryce, Director of the Division of Parks and Recreation in the Department of

Senate Finance Committee

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Resources and Economic Development. I'm not taking -- we are not taking a formal position on this because of the impact on revenue but we do support it as is indicated by checking my check off in support of the legislation. We wanted to make you aware that we did put a provision in our fee packet which is being heard by Fiscal tomorrow to provide for access for active members of the military and if that was approved it would provide for that access. There are some differences which I point out in my legislation between what's in that fee package and what is in the legislation that's being presented to you today.

Primarily, we extended it to residents and non-resident military because we have people stationed in New Hampshire that are not necessarily residents of the state. It's also difficult at times to make that distinction between who's a resident and not a resident and actually can be offered for staff and we felt that everyone was deserving. We promote visitorship to New Hampshire and we felt that all members were -- should be afforded that privilege.

We also did not include retired members and the spouses and families because we just took what was currently in statute for the -- currently in statute and just extended that, extended what was there, the same abilities and access there and the current statute did not include that. So I'd be -- we noted the financial -- what we estimated the financial impact if all those people were to attend -- go to the parks, but as we know there are certainly some fixed costs associated with that as well. So with that, I'd offer to answer any questions.

CHAIRMAN MORSE: Any questions? Senator Barnes.

SEN. BARNES: Thank you. A couple of questions for you, Philip. You have a nice list here of all the parks and I appreciate that. Can you tell us what the admission is to these parks?

MR. BRYCE: It's currently \$4.

SEN. BARNES: Every one of these parks it's a \$4 admission. It's standard throughout the state.

MR. BRYCE: Not all of them because some of them, the Frost Farm, is a historic site; but we're -- what we are talking about in the legislation is our day use parks and all of our day use parks are \$4. Not our enterprise activities.

(Senator Morse leaves the committee room.)

SEN. BARNES: I appreciate that. Second question for you. You heard the previous speaker saying she's willing to pass a hat and I'd be out on the street corner with her. Is there something -- do we have something in place where you folks accept donations for something like this? Is there something set up in your Department that somebody wanted to come through and give you a check for a thousand dollars to cover this, is there anything there that allows that to happen?

MR. BRYCE: Yes, there are two things. Number one is we can accept donations with Governor and Council approval. And secondly, we have -- there is currently legislation that would allow us to accept donations up to a certain amount without Governor and Council approval, and we'd appreciate it if the Legislature would pass that so we could do that very thing.

SEN. BARNES: How much is that?

MR. BRYCE: I think it's 2500.

VICE-CHAIRMAN ODELL: I think it is, too.

SEN. BARNES: So if someone wanted to do that, they make a check out to the Department, DRED?

MR. BRYCE: Yes, New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation.

SEN. BARNES: With a comment on it this would go to offset any cost would be for this piece of legislation.

MR. BRYCE: Yes.

SEN. BARNES: Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIRMAN ODELL: Director, can I just go to Page 2 of your letter. I tried to follow you. What happens if we approve this bill, that sets in place us -- how do we get an alignment between what's going through the Fiscal Committee and what this bill contains?

MR. BRYCE: Good question. I don't -- this is my first experience with the fee package for Fiscal Committee. So I don't know if that package can be amended or not. In terms of getting alignment, if you pass -- so my understanding is that they either pass the fee package or not. So that leaves to either the legislation being changed to reflect which is in the fee packet which is why I presented that to you if it gets approved or it means that you pass the legislation and when it becomes enforce then we change our policies accordingly.

VICE-CHAIRMAN ODELL: I would suspect one reason for coming into Fiscal in January so you can get on with brochures and signage and all those kind of things. So I think probably we ought to do it Fiscal tomorrow and then we can adjust this legislation to meet whatever is outlined there, fill in the blanks. I mean, just seems we have got two moving pieces here.

MR. BRYCE: I understand there's another piece of legislation, I believe, in the House regarding the Purple Heart Trail and it also includes discounts for military as well, so.

VICE-CHAIRMAN ODELL: Okay. And do you take a position on that?

MR. BRYCE: We take a similar position as we do here. Our intent, which maybe didn't go quite as far in granting the access to the parks, although one thing that's in our fee package is the use of our pavilions for free use of the pavilions, for example, for coming home or deployment events, which is not in either of the pieces of legislation, so.

VICE-CHAIRMAN ODELL: All right. Other questions, Senator Bragdon?

SEN. PRESIDENT BRAGDON: Thank you, Senator. Question about the fee package. It comes to Fiscal effective on a certain day. Is it July 1st or -- the whole purpose of coming to Fiscal, if I recall, was so you guys could get all your brochures, do all these things. There must be a start date for this fee package or does it just start the day Fiscal approves it and then all your brochures you throw out? You're looking at me like you don't know what I'm saying so --

MR. BRYCE: Yeah. There's also legislation in to make sure that they're in by -- I think by -- well, make sure they're enforced within 60 days. There is a time lag of a few weeks to a month or so based on my recollection of a conversation with staff. So that there is a time lag before we get that information out there. But this year if we get approval by Fiscal tomorrow, we'll have it well in time for the season which begins, you know, April, May.

SEN. PRESIDENT BRAGDON: Well, the problem is though if we approve in Fiscal tomorrow, you print up all your brochures and everything and this takes effect on June 1st, then it screws up some of the stuff you've printed. So I'll deal with it in Fiscal. Thank you.

MR. BRYCE: Thank you.

Senate Finance Committee

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VICE-CHAIRMAN ODELL: Okay. We do have some work to do to put the fees together.

SEN. PRESIDENT BRAGDON: Yes, there's an issue there.

VICE-CHAIRMAN ODELL: Thank you. Any other questions for Mr. Bryce? Seeing none, thank you very much.

MR. BRYCE: All right, thank you.

SEN. BARNES: Good luck tomorrow, Phil.

MR. BRYCE: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIRMAN ODELL: I'll call on Senator Stiles. Senator Stiles is the last person that signed up. If there's anyone else wanting to speak on this bill that didn't sign up, they can indicate after Senator Stiles speaks. Good afternoon, Senator Stiles. Welcome to Committee.

NANCY STILES, State Senator, District #24: Good afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Committee Members. For the record, I am Nancy Stiles, Senator from District 24. It includes the communities of Hampton Falls, Hampton, North Hampton, Rye, Newcastle, Portsmouth, Newington, and Greenland. And I'm delighted to be with today. I would also like to share with you that this is my first time serving on the State Parks Advisory Council as well. And I am in full support of allowing our military -- active military families to enjoy all of our parks at no cost. I want to be right upfront with that. And anything that we can do to support them while they're fighting for our freedom I think we should be doing.

However, when I take a look at the other people who are allowed into our parks free, and I fit into two of those categories, as a legislator and as a person that's over 65, and we also have the handicap and there are

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several people that are allowed into our parks free. I really think it's time that we took a look at our fee structure and for some of those categories allow them at a discounted rate, whether it be half price or anything else. Maybe when I did take advantage of going into my state park twice last summer, I should have at least made a contribution when I went through. When I pulled up they said you don't pay so I went in. But if we are expecting our parks to offer a -- on the fees that they collect, I think we need to address what we are doing and who we are allowing in free and who we could provide discounted rates for. And I would like the Committee to consider that.

VICE-CHAIRMAN ODELL: Thank you for your testimony, Senator Stiles. Are there questions? Senator Barnes.

SEN. BARNES: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would you believe, Senator Stiles, I think you probably only qualify under one of those conditions and it's not 65, because you certainly, I think, you are fooling somebody. I don't think you reached the age qualification for that. Number one.

SEN. STILES: Thank you, Senator Barnes.

SEN. BARNES: I'd like to correct your testimony to that effect.

SEN. STILES: You're always so full of compliments and I appreciate that.

SEN. D'ALLESANDRO: Full of compliments. Make sure we got that.

CHAIRMAN MORSE: Anything else for Senator Stiles? Thank you, Senator Stiles.

SEN. STILES: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MORSE: Anyone else like to testify on Senate Bill 358? Seeing none, thank you. Close the hearing on

Senate Bill 358.

(Hearing concluded at 1:21 p.m.)

Senate Finance Committee

January 19, 2012

Senate Bill 358-FN

CERTIFICATION

I, Cecelia A. Trask, a Licensed Court Reporter-Shorthand, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate transcript from my shorthand notes taken on said date to the best of my ability, skill, knowledge and judgment.

Cecelia A. Trask
Cecelia A. Trask, LSR, RMR, CRK
State of New Hampshire
License No. 47



Speakers

Testimony

SB 358

Some times in Government, we make honest mistakes, where there was no intent to do any wrong, and this is one of those times.

Through no fault of any public official, today we have a gap in consideration on how we, as a state, are respecting and honoring our military.

As some of you know, today our state offers free admission to our state parks for E1 through E6 members of the National Guard.

While I support this provision, I also believe we should honor and respect all who have sacrificed to defend what we believe in.

As such, I am respectfully requesting we expand our eligibility for admission to our park system.

SB 358 requests that we provide free admission to any active duty personnel and their immediate family, if they are home on leave, and to provide free access to our state parks to any honorably discharged, retired member of our armed forces.

As you know, this request arose when the son of one of my constituents, Mary Thayer's son, Gunnery Sergeant Richard Thayer was denied discounted access, after his family saw the consideration on our states website.

I believe that after 15 years of service and 4 deployments defending all that we believe in, qualifies for consideration, as do all those who defend us.

Now, I do understand there exists the concern of a financial impact to DRED and our state park system, but acknowledging the primary expense is of a fixed nature, the impact will be minimal.

Again, I stress this legislation is by no means meant to be a negative reflection on our employees and staff at DRED, but only our unintended mistake which we can correct and show our military personnel we honor and thank them for their service.

I ask that you please support this important legislation.

Thank you.

1-19-12

Submitted by
Sen. Sanborn

**Free Use for National Guard and Disabled Veterans
April 22, 2011 through September 29, 2011**

Park	Total Paid Attendance	Total Unpaid Attendance	Total Prepaid Attendance	Grand Total Attendance	Total NH National Guard and Disabled Veterans Attendance
Bear Brook	8,295	491	2,828	11,614	46
Clough	4,468	159	179	4,806	20
Coleman	0	0	0	0	0
Crawford Notch	0	0	0	0	0
Deer Mountain	0	0	0	0	0
Echo Lake	14,229	277	1,722	16,228	24
Ellacoya	13,788	649	904	15,341	93
Franklin Pierce	172	0	0	172	0
Frost Farm	1,100	476	33	1,609	11
Greenfield	4,912	396	195	5,503	17
Hampton Beach South	22,184	1,253	1,001	24,438	187
Jericho	0	0	0	0	0
Kingston	8,086	185	1,080	9,351	5
Lake Francis	0	0	0	0	0
Milan Hill	0	0	0	0	0
Miller	5,796	333	172	6,301	16
Mollidgewock	40	0	0	40	0
Monadnock HQ	33,678	229	2,058	35,965	49
Monadnock- Gilson Pond	1,037	17	75	1,129	1
Monadnock- Old Toll Road	6,696	131	654	7,481	3
Moose Brook	78	0	0	78	0
Odiome Point	12,132	746	7	12,885	200
Pawtuckaway	31,345	1,049	2,320	34,714	164
Pillsbury	838	78	25	941	0
Rhododendron	0	0	0	0	0
Rollins	5,339	365	39	5,743	15
Rye Harbor	1,930	155	2	2,087	59
Silver Lake	8,287	274	42	8,603	0
Sunapee	23,052	1,851	1,630	26,533	149
Umbagog	85	0	0	85	0
Wadleigh	0	0	0	0	0
Wallis Sands	14,801	7,415	2,277	24,493	1,016
Weeks	397	186	47	630	2
Wellington	20,965	977	5,661	27,603	84
Wentworth	3,831	543	187	4,561	50
Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion	399	59	81	539	9
White Lake	10,534	951	605	12,090	49
Winslow	5,115	350	282	5,747	8
Grand Total	263,609	19,595	24,106	307,310	2,277

MY NAME IS AUDREY BLODGETT. I AM READING THIS STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF MY SISTER MARY THAYER, WHO'S SON WAS THE MARINE WHO WAS DENIED A MILITARY DISCOUNT AT A STATE PARK.

LAST SUMMER MY SON AND HIS FAMILY WERE HOME ON LEAVE AND WE WANTED TO TAKE THE GRANDKIDS UP TO THE WHITE MOUNTAINS. AFTER GOING ONLINE, I SAW THAT THE FLUME OFFERED MILITARY DISCOUNTS SO WE DECIDED TO GO THERE. WHEN WE GOT THERE, MY SON SHOWED HIS MILITARY ID AND WAS TOLD THAT HE DIDN'T QUALIFY FOR THE DISCOUNT. I WISH I COULD HAVE TAKEN A PICTURE OF MY SON'S FACE WHEN HE WALKED AWAY FROM THAT WINDOW. HE WAS EMBARRASSED AND HUMILIATED. FIRST, BECAUSE HE ASKED FOR IT IN THE FIRST PLACE (WHICH HE NEVER DOES) AND THEN TO BASICALLY BE TOLD THAT YOUR 15 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE AND YOUR 4 DEPLOYMENTS ISN'T ENOUGH TO BE CONSIDERED MILITARY. I AM SURE THERE ARE MILITARY PEOPLE HERE WHO WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT FEELING. I, AS HIS MOTHER, FOUND THIS TO BE UNACCEPTABLE. WHEN WE GOT HOME, I CALLED THE DEPT. OF RESOURCES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND WAS TOLD THAT NATIONAL GUARDSMEN QUALIFIED FOR THE DISCOUNT. I THEN CALLED ALL MY REPRESENTATIVES AND MY SENATOR TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE TO REMEDY THIS SITUATION. REPRESENTATIVE JENNIFER COFFEY AND I DISCUSSED THE MATTER AT GREAT LENGTH, AND SHE AGREED WITH ME THAT THIS STATUTE NEEDED TO CHANGE. AS A WIFE AND MOTHER OF MARINES THAT HAVE PROUDLY AND HONORABLY SERVED THIS COUNTRY, (MY HUSBAND SERVED IN DESERT SHIELD & DESERT STORM AND MY SON WHO HAS HAD FOUR TOURS OF DUTY IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN), I KNOW THAT THEY DO NOT ASK FOR, OR EXPECT, SPECIAL TREATMENT OF ANY KIND. MY ISSUE IS THAT THE FLUME SHOULD NOT HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY GIVE MILITARY DISCOUNTS AND THEN NOT GIVE ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY THAT DISCOUNT. I AM VERY PROUD OF MY SON AND MY HUSBAND, AND AM GRATEFUL TO ALL OTHER MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE SERVED AND PROTECTED THIS COUNTRY AND I THINK THAT IF THE STATE OF NH IS GOING TO SAY "MILITARY DISCOUNTS" IT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ALL MILITARY, NOT JUST NATIONAL GUARDSMEN. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION

172 Pembroke Road P.O. Box 1856 Concord, New Hampshire 03302-1856
PHONE: (603) 271-3556 FAX: (603) 271-3553 E-MAIL: nhparks@dred.state.nh.us
WEB: www.nhstateparks.org

January 19, 2012

The Honorable Charles "Chuck" Morse, Chairman
and the Senate Finance Committee
NH State House, Room 103
Concord, NH 03301

RE: SB 358 An act expanding eligibility for free admission to the state park system to certain members and their families and retired members of the armed forces.

Dear Chairman Morse and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 358 that would extend free day-use admission to the state park system to active and retired members of the armed forces, to members of the NH National Guard, and to the immediate family members of active members of the armed forces who are home on leave. The Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED), Division of Parks and Recreation (Division) does not take a position on this bill, however, I wish to provide this Committee with the following information.

The Division supports the principles of SB 358, and we recognize the contribution and sacrifices that the members of the armed forces have made. To that end, the Division added to its 2012 Fee Package free day-use admission to all members of the armed forces. The specific 2012 Fee Package provisions related to military personnel are provided herein for your reference:

"Active members of any military branch, regardless of residency, are granted free admission to day-use areas for themselves only, with presentation of their military ID. Includes entry for one vehicle using one parking space at Hampton Beach-South and Wallis Sands. Does not apply to camping, attractions, metered parking, function space, permits, and other enterprise and concession activities.

During times of declared war, such members and their immediate family are granted 50% discount on function space, with proof of active service and upon written request to the Director. Immediate family means parents, their dependent children, and grandparents. During times of declared war, such members are granted free use of function space for "send-off" or "deployment" events, and for "welcome home" events, with proof of active service and upon written request to the Director."

It is a long-standing practice for the Division to bring its Fee Package to legislature for approval through Fiscal Committee, pursuant to RSA 216-A:3-g. This process allows the Division to remain responsive to changes in the seasonal, outdoor recreation marketplace, and to maintain

January 19, 2012

The Honorable Charles "Chuck" Morse
and the Senate Finance Committee

Page 2

financial flexibility as an operationally self-funded agency. We also endeavor to set up a fee system that is easy, clear and quick for the toll booth staff to get visitors into the Parks. The Division's 2012 Fee Package is scheduled for review and approval by the Fiscal Committee of the General Court at its January 20, 2012, meeting.

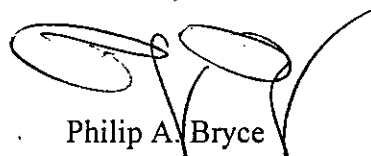
The differences between the fee package and SB 358 are as follows:

1. The fee package proposes granting free admission regardless of residency. There are members of the military who are stationed in New Hampshire who are not necessarily residents. We also do not make a distinction in park fees between residents and non residents to emphasize the importance of visitors to the state to the economy.
2. We did not include retired members of the armed forces or active member's spouse and children because we followed the current legislation providing access for guard members that covers just the active duty member.
3. We did add however a discount on function space and free use of function space for send-off and welcome home events.

Although it is not known how many of the above referenced armed forces members and their families would take advantage of this extended benefit of free day-use admission, the Division currently provides free admission to active and retired NH national guard pay grades E1-E6, and to NH disabled veterans, pursuant to RSA 216:3-g. Extrapolating from the 12% of state park visitors who were national guardsmen and disabled vets admitted free in 2011, and the total population of armed forces in NH (131,266), the estimated total value of this extended benefit is \$66,000. This estimate does not include benefits extended to immediate family members, which is indeterminable. The Division carefully considers such fiscal impacts, as we are operationally self-funded.

We are available to answer any questions you may have on this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,



Philip A. Bryce
Director

PAB/ttl011912

C: George M. Bald, Commissioner

ER
State-wide Programs

Collective Bargaining Agreement – State Employees

Any full-time state employee other than University System employees shall be entitled to a 50% discount. Includes camping, day use areas and season pass, which is valid for the bearer only. Does not apply to any promotional and or group use pavilion area. Does not apply to cabins or yurts. Employees must abide by the established discount rules and regulations to obtain discount on the admission price of any state-owned recreation area, see <http://admin.state.nh.us/hr/cba2011/cba2011.html>.

2) Complimentary Pass

These are issued by the Commissioner, Director, Deputy Director, or Bureau administrator.

3) Discount Book \$24.00 for a \$30.00 value

Ticket coupon books reflecting a 20% discount from day-use rates during summer operations pursuant to RSA 218:5-b

4) Division Employees

Division employees are provided a season's pass for themselves and a member of their family accompanying them, up to two seasons passes granting free day-use admission for themselves and/or their family (up to 6 persons), available from their supervisor. Includes entry for one vehicle using a single parking space at Hampton Beach-South and Wallis Sands. They are also permitted two nights free camping, as space is available through first-come, first-serve. Does not apply to attractions, metered parking, function space, permits, other enterprise and concession activities.

5) Donations

The Division is authorized to accept donations pursuant to RSA 216-A:3-g VII (b) and 216-A:3-I, deposited into the State Park Fund.

6) General Court / Governor and Executive Councilors

Current members of the general court, state senators and representatives, and members of governor and council are granted free admission to day-use areas for themselves and one guest with presentation of their credentials. Includes entry for one vehicle using a single parking space at Hampton Beach-South and Wallis Sands. Does not apply to camping, attractions, metered parking, function space, permits, other enterprise and concession activities.

7) Military

Active members of any military branch, regardless of residency, are granted free admission to day-use areas for themselves only, with presentation of their military ID. Includes entry for one vehicle using one parking space at Hampton Beach-South and Wallis Sands. Does not apply to camping, attractions, metered parking, function space, permits, other enterprise and concession activities.

During times of declared war, such members and their immediate family are granted 50% discount on function space, with proof of active service and upon written request to the Director. Immediate family mean parents, their dependent children, and grandparents.

During times of declared war, such members are granted free use of function space for "send-off" or "deployment" events, and for "welcome home" events, with proof of active service and upon written request to the Director.

8) National Parks / America the Beautiful Access Pass

The Golden Access pass has been replaced by the America the Beautiful – National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass – Access Pass; however the Golden Access pass is still in circulation and both are accepted. It is a lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents with permanent disabilities. The Division grants the pass holder plus one guest free day-use admission. Includes entry for one vehicle using one parking space at Hampton Beach-South and Wallis Sands. Does not apply to camping, attractions, metered parking, function space, permits, other enterprise and concession activities.

9) NH Disabled Veterans

RSA 216-A:3-g IV. No disabled veteran of this state, upon providing satisfactory proof of a service-connected disability, shall be charged a fee for day-use admission to the state park system. Special number plates issued to disabled veterans pursuant to RSA 261:86 or a letter issued by the US Dept of Veterans Affairs certifying that the veteran suffers from a service-connected disability shall constitute satisfactory proof under this section.

Includes entry for one vehicle using one parking space at Hampton Beach-South and Wallis Sands. Does not apply to camping, attractions, metered parking, function space, permits, other enterprise and concession activities.

10) NH National Guard

RSA 216-A:3-g V. (a) Any active member of a federally recognized unit of the New Hampshire national guard who is a legal resident of this state, and who meets the minimum requirements for satisfactory membership, as defined in the United States Department of the Army and the United States Department of the Air Force regulations, and is serving in pay grades E1 through E6 shall not be charged a fee for admission to the state park system. This section shall apply to members of the Active Guard and Reserve program in the New Hampshire national guard. (b) Any New Hampshire national guard member who retired in pay grade E6 or below shall not be charged a fee for day-use admission to the state park system. (c) Any fees for the use of enterprise activities such as including ski lifts, food service, retail facilities, campgrounds, and other concession activities shall be charged.

By Division policy: Any active member, and active guard or reserve member, of a federally recognized unit of the NH national guard who is a legal resident of this state, and who meets the minimum requirements for satisfactory membership, as defined in the US DOD regulations, regardless of pay grade, shall not be charged a fee for admission to the state park system.

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STATE of NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION
2012 Fee Package - notes

OTHER

Statewide Programs

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Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SENATE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Date: January 26, 2012

THE COMMITTEE ON Finance

to which was referred Senate Bill 358-FN

AN ACT expanding eligibility for free admission to the state park system to certain members and their families and retired members of the armed forces.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill:

SHOULD PASS WITH AMENDMENT

BY A VOTE OF: 7-0

AMENDMENT # 0427s

Senator John S. Barnes, Jr.
For the Committee

Shannon Whitehead 271-4980

New Hampshire General Court - Bill Status System

Docket of SB358

Docket Abbreviations

Bill Title: (New Title) relative to eligibility for free admission to the state park system for members of the armed forces.

Official Docket of SB358:

Date	Body	Description
1/1/2012	S	Introduced 1/4/2012 and Referred to Finance; SJ 1 , Pg.13
1/1/2012	S	Hearing: 1/5/12, Room 103, SH, 1:15 p.m; SC1
1/12/2012	S	Hearing: === RECESSED === 1/5/12, Room 103, SH, 1:15 p.m.
1/12/2012	S	Hearing: === RECONVENE === 1/19/12, Room 103, SH, 1:00 p.m.; SC3
1/27/2012	S	Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment #2012-0427s , 2/8/12; SC6
2/8/2012	S	Committee Amendment 0427s, AA, VV; SJ 4 , Pg.108
2/8/2012	S	Ought to Pass with Amendment 0427s, MA, VV; OT3rdg; SJ 4 , Pg.108
2/8/2012	H	Introduced and Referred to Resources, Recreation and Development; HJ 15 , PG.907
3/7/2012	H	Public Hearing: 3/12/2012 2:00 PM LOB 303
3/21/2012	H	Subcommittee Work Session: 3/27/2012 1:30 PM LOB 305
3/28/2012	H	Subcommittee Work Session: 4/3/2012 1:00 PM LOB 305
4/3/2012	H	Subcommittee Work Session: 4/17/2012 12:45 PM LOB 305
4/24/2012	H	Full Committee Work Session: 5/1/2012 11:10 AM LOB 305 ==Executive Session To Follow==
5/2/2012	H	Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment #1929h(NT) for May 9 (Vote 10-0; CC); HC 36 , PG.2010
5/2/2012	H	Proposed Committee Amendment #2012-1929h (New Title); HC 36 , PG.2027
5/9/2012	H	Amendment #1929h(NT) Adopted, VV; HJ 40 , PG.2235-2236
5/9/2012	H	Ought to Pass with Amendment #1929h(NT): MA VV; HJ 40 , PG.2235-2236
5/23/2012	S	Sen. Morse Concurs with House Amendment #1929h; MA, VV
6/6/2012	H	Enrolled
6/6/2012	S	Enrolled
6/20/2012	S	Signed by the Governor on 06/20/2012; Chapter 0277; Effective 06/20/2012

NH House

NH Senate

Other Referrals

COMMITTEE REPORT FILE INVENTORY

ORIGINAL REFERRAL RE-REFERRAL

1. THIS INVENTORY IS TO BE SIGNED AND DATED BY THE COMMITTEE AIDE AND PLACED INSIDE THE FOLDER AS THE FIRST ITEM IN THE COMMITTEE FILE.
2. PLACE ALL DOCUMENTS IN THE FOLDER FOLLOWING THE INVENTORY IN THE ORDER LISTED.
3. THE DOCUMENTS WHICH HAVE AN "X" BESIDE THEM ARE CONFIRMED AS BEING IN THE FOLDER.
4. THE COMPLETED FILE IS THEN DELIVERED TO THE CALENDAR CLERK.

- DOCKET (Submit only the latest docket found in Bill Status)
- COMMITTEE REPORT
- CALENDAR NOTICE (2)
- HEARING REPORT (2) reports
- HANDOUTS FROM THE PUBLIC HEARING
- PREPARED TESTIMONY AND OTHER SUBMISSIONS
- SIGN-UP SHEET(S)

ALL AMENDMENTS (passed or not) CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE:

- AMENDMENT # 0291S - AMENDMENT # 0427S
 - AMENDMENT # 1929h - AMENDMENT # _____

ALL AVAILABLE VERSIONS OF THE BILL:

AS INTRODUCED AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE
 FINAL VERSION AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

OTHER (Anything else deemed important but not listed above, such as amended fiscal notes): transcript (2)

IF YOU HAVE A RE-REFERRED BILL, YOU ARE GOING TO MAKE UP A DUPLICATE FILE FOLDER

DATE DELIVERED TO SENATE CLERK 6-22-12 Shannon Whitehead
BY COMMITTEE AIDE