

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 683

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Provides free admission to State parks and forests, and certain historic sites and historic properties for certain veterans on certain days.
- Type of Impact:** An annual revenue loss to the State, certain counties, and certain municipalities.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Environmental Protection; counties; municipalities.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Annual Fiscal Impact	<u>Beginning in FY 2025</u>
State Revenue Loss	Indeterminate
County and Municipal Revenue Loss	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determines that the elimination of State park and forest admission fees for veterans on the five days enumerated in the bill would result in an indeterminate annual State revenue loss beginning in FY 2025. These losses would be modest given the small subset of the population that will be affected by the bill and that the bill only applies to five days of the year.
- Similar modest revenue losses are expected to accrue to local governments from veterans receiving admission fee waivers to any historic properties and sites that charge admission fees.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill provides free admission for veterans on the date that the State may designate for the celebration of Memorial Day, Armed Forces Day, Independence Day, Patriot Day, and Veterans Day to: 1) State parks and forests; 2) historic properties acquired or preserved by a local government unit or qualifying tax exempt nonprofit organization by using State funding; and 3) any historic site owned or operated by a county or a municipality.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS determines that the elimination of State park and forest admission fees for veterans on the five days enumerated above will result in an indeterminate annual State revenue loss beginning in FY 2025. State park admission fees were waived for FY 2023 as part of the Governor's Budget at an estimated revenue loss of \$2.7 million to the State. Admission fees are waived again in FY 2024 so this bill will have no impact on State revenues in the current fiscal year. Going forward, annual State revenue losses should be modest given the small subset of the population that will be affected and that the bill only applies to five days of the year. The OLS notes that 2021 American Community Survey data show that an estimated 283,485 veterans reside in New Jersey, which accounts for 3.9 percent of the population.

Modest revenue losses are also expected to accrue to local governments beginning in FY 2025 from veterans receiving admission fee waivers to any historic properties and sites that charge admission fees.

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This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).