

HB 1768-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

12Feb2026... 0358h

2026 SESSION

26-2926

06/08

HOUSE BILL

***1768-FN***

AN ACT

exempting honorably discharged New Hampshire veterans from metered parking fees at state parks upon presenting acceptable proof of status and raising the value of individual gifts and donations that may be received by the division of parks and recreation without the approval of the governor or the executive council.

SPONSORS:

Rep. Bridle, Rock. 29; Rep. Bordes, Belk. 5; Rep. Coker, Belk. 2; Rep. Edgar, Rock. 29; Rep. McGrath, Rock. 40

COMMITTEE:

Resources, Recreation and Development

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill exempts honorably discharged New Hampshire veterans from metered parking fees at state parks upon presenting acceptable proof of status and raises the value of individual gifts and donations that may be received by the division of parks and recreation without the approval of the governor or the executive council.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six*

AN ACT                    exempting honorably discharged New Hampshire veterans from metered parking fees at state parks upon presenting acceptable proof of status and raising the value of individual gifts and donations that may be received by the division of parks and recreation without the approval of the governor or the executive council.

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

1            1 New Paragraphs; Fees for Park System. Amend RSA 216-A:3-g by inserting after paragraph  
2 V the following new paragraphs:

3            V-a. No metered parking fee shall be charged at any state park lot, including but not limited  
4 to Hampton Beach South and Wallis Sands, for any vehicle displaying a veteran license plate issued  
5 by the New Hampshire division of motor vehicles.

6            V-b.(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the department of  
7 natural and cultural resources, through the division of parks and recreation, may solicit, receive, and  
8 procure monetary or in-kind donations for the purpose of offsetting revenue losses resulting from  
9 statutory exemptions from day-use admission or parking fees, including, but not limited to,  
10 exemptions for persons with disabilities and honorably discharged veterans.

11            (b) Donations received under this paragraph may be acknowledged through limited  
12 sponsor recognition, including the display of a name, logo, or identifying mark, as determined by the  
13 department, provided that such recognition is incidental to the donation, non-promotional in nature,  
14 and does not imply endorsement by the state.

15            (c) All monetary donations received under this paragraph shall be deposited in the state  
16 parks gifts and donations account established under RSA 216-A:3-o and expended in accordance with  
17 that section.

18            2 Expansion of State Park System; State Park Gifts and Donations; Account Established.  
19 Amend RSA 216-A:3-o, I to read as follows:

20            I. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, individual gifts and donations  
21 not exceeding [~~\$2,500~~] **\$50,000** in value in a fiscal year may be received by the division of parks and  
22 recreation without the approval of the governor or [~~the governor and~~] council. Individual gifts and  
23 donations exceeding [~~\$2,500~~] **\$50,000** in value in a fiscal year may be received by the division of  
24 parks and recreation with the approval of the governor and council.

25            3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

**HB 1768-FN- FISCAL NOTE**  
AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENT # 2026-0358h)

AN ACT exempting honorably discharged New Hampshire veterans from metered parking fees at state parks upon presenting acceptable proof of status and raising the value of individual gifts and donations that may be received by the division of parks and recreation without the approval of the governor or the executive council.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	Indeterminable Decrease (\$70,000 to \$165,000) (State Park Fund)	Indeterminable Decrease (\$70,000 to \$165,000) (State Park Fund)	Indeterminable Decrease (\$70,000 to \$165,000) (State Park Fund)
		Indeterminable Increase (State Parks Gifts and Donations Fund)	Indeterminable Increase (State Parks Gifts and Donations Fund)	Indeterminable Increase (State Parks Gifts and Donations Fund)
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	State Park Fund and State Parks Gifts and Donations Fund			
<b>Expenditures*</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			
<b>Appropriations*</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			

\*Expenditure = Cost of bill

\*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill exempts vehicles displaying a New Hampshire veteran license plate from metered parking fees at state parks and authorizes the Division of Parks and Recreation to solicit and receive individual gifts and donations not exceeding \$50,000 in value in a fiscal year without approval of the Governor and Executive Council.

The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources states this bill would reduce revenues to the State Park Fund beginning in FY 2027. During the 2025 operating season, the Department generated \$3,083,467 in parking meter fees.

Based on data published by New Hampshire Employment Security, approximately 7% of New Hampshire residents are veterans. Because the Department does not track either the residency

or veteran plate status of park visitors, it assumed that between 33% and 75% of park visitors are New Hampshire residents, and that 7% of those residents would qualify for the exemption. Using those assumptions, the Department estimates the annual revenue loss for a full operating season would range from approximately \$71,228 to \$161,882, as shown below:

Assumed Share of NH Resident Visitors	Estimated Annual Revenue Loss
33% of visitors	\$71,228
50% of visitors	\$107,921
66% of visitors	\$142,456
75% of visitors	\$161,882

The bill also increases the threshold for individual gifts and donations that may be accepted by the Division of Parks and Recreation without approval of the Governor and Executive Council from \$2,500 to \$50,000. To the extent donors provide gifts in excess of the prior \$2,500 limit, the State Parks Gifts and Donations Account established under RSA 216-A:3-o could experience an indeterminable increase in revenue ranging from \$0 to \$47,500 per individual gift, depending on the amount and number of donations received. The Department did not estimate the amount of potential additional donations.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources