



Legislative Council Staff  
Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

# Fiscal Note

<b>Drafting Number:</b>	LLS 21-0529	<b>Date:</b>	February 22, 2021
<b>Prime Sponsors:</b>	Rep. Holtorf; Ortiz Sen. Liston	<b>Bill Status:</b>	House SCMVA
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**Bill Topic:** PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT FREE STATE PARK ACCESS

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill grants free state park access to Purple Heart recipients. It decreases state revenue and increases state expenditures on an ongoing basis.

**Appropriation Summary:** No appropriation is required.

**Fiscal Note Status:** The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

**Table 1  
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 21-1116**

		<b>Budget Year FY 2021-22</b>	<b>Out Year FY 2022-23</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	Cash Funds	(up to \$31,940)	(up to \$38,328)
<b>Expenditures</b>		-	-
<b>Transfers</b>		-	-
<b>TABOR Refund</b>		-	-

## **Summary of Legislation**

The bill grants free access to state parks and recreation areas to Colorado residents who are Purple Heart recipients. A resident displaying a Purple Heart special license plate may enter any state park or recreation area free of charge. A resident who is a Purple Heart recipient can obtain a free transferable state park pass from a Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) division or central office, even if they have not obtained the special license plate.

## **Background**

Colorado's 42 state parks have about 15 million visitors each year. Daily park passes range from \$9-\$11 per vehicle, and annual passes range from \$70 to \$120. There are currently an estimated 8,089 Purple Heart recipients that would be eligible for free admission under the bill. Current law allows a disabled veteran to access state parks and recreation areas free of charge by displaying a disabled veterans license plate or by obtaining a free transferable annual state park pass from CPW.

## **State Revenue**

The bill is estimated to decrease revenue to the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Cash Fund in the Department of Natural Resources by up to \$31,940 in FY 2021-22, and up to \$38,328 in FY 2022-23 and future years. The revenue impact is estimated by assuming a decrease of approximately 0.17 percent (the ratio of Purple Heart recipients to the adult population in Colorado) to park pass revenue, which totaled approximately \$22.2 million FY 2019-20. The impact is prorated to reflect 10 months of effect in FY 2021-22. The foregone revenue may be less than this total as some Purple Heart recipients may already qualify for free access as disabled veterans, however this population is not estimated.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is designated as an enterprise under TABOR; revenue to the agency does not apply toward the TABOR revenue limit.

## **State Expenditures**

This bill will increase costs and workload in CPW to produce and distribute annual passes, update materials and websites, and conduct rulemaking. These costs are expected to be minimal, and can be accomplished within existing appropriations. In addition, increased visitation induced by free entry will incrementally increase costs related to usage; these costs are not estimated.

## **Effective Date**

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

## State and Local Government Contacts

Military Affairs

Natural Resources

Revenue