

LFC Requester:

David Austin

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO
[AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov](https://www.nmlegis.gov/AgencyAnalysis) and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov
(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Date Prepared: 1/29/2025

Check all that apply:

Bill Number: HB 161Original Correction Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Rebecca Dow, Jay C. Block,
 Alan T. Martinez, Tara L. Lujan,
 Debra M. Sarinana

Agency Name
 and Code
 Number:

New Mexico Department of Veterans
 Services 67000

Short Title: STATE PARK DAY PASSES
 FOR VETERANS

Person Writing Danelle LuceroPhone: 505-372-9035 Email Danelle.lucero@dvs.nm.gov**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT****APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
N/A	20.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund
N/A	35.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		
N/A	N/A	N/A		
N/A	N/A	N/A		

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	N/A	N/A	N/A			

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE Providing Veterans residing in the state one day-use pass for unlimited entry into state parks or recreation areas and one camping pass for unlimited use of camping areas operated by the State Parks Division of the Energy and Mineral and Natural Resources Department.

BILL SUMMARY The bill would extend the Park Pass benefit to all Veterans and not limit to 50% and higher disabled Veterans. It would also extend the usage for the camping pass, changing it from one 3-day pass per year to unlimited use pass for all veterans.

Synopsis:

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS Significant: Due to the anticipated surge in new applicants resulting from the reduced eligibility requirements, the agency expects a substantial increase in applications. Currently, park passes are processed for veterans with a disability rating of 50% or higher. With the proposed expansion to include all veterans, the volume of applications is expected to rise significantly. To manage this increased demand, additional temporary administrative support will be required. The agency requests \$35,000 to cover these costs. Additionally, to raise awareness among veterans about the State Parks Pass benefit, the agency is requesting \$20,000 for promotional materials.

Note: major assumptions underlying fiscal impact should be documented.

Note: if additional operating budget impact is estimated, assumptions and calculations should be reported in this section.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES – Increased administrative workload, the need for outreach and awareness.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS – The processing of additional park passes, managing requests, and updating records will increase administrative systems. This would require enhanced support, potentially through additional staff or temporary administrative support, to ensure smooth operations and timely processing.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS Historically, 15% of the State's veteran population met the eligibility criteria. Based on this metric and the issuance of certificates within this population, the agency anticipates an approximate surge of 6,000 new applicants within the first year, due to the reduced eligibility requirements.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP N/A

TECHNICAL ISSUES The agency does not anticipate any technical issues and plans to update the current system's application to accommodate the eligibility change.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES – N/A

ALTERNATIVES N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL All veterans who don't meet the 50% disability threshold would continue to miss out on the benefits of the park pass.

AMENDMENTS N/A