



SF 306 – State Park User Fee Pilot Program (LSB1034SV)
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Fiscal Note Version – As amended by House Amendment [S-3203](#)

Description

[Senate File 306](#) as amended by House Amendment [S-3203](#) establishes a State Park User Fee Pilot Program in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The Program allows the DNR to charge nonresidents who visit Lake Manawa State Park or Waubonsie State Park the following fees:

- One-day entrance fee of \$5 per vehicle.
- Annual pass fee of \$40 for one vehicle and the option to buy a second vehicle pass for a fee of \$15.

The Bill allows the Department to establish separate fees for residents and nonresidents related to camping and shelter rentals.

Background

Lake Manawa State Park is located near Council Bluffs, Iowa, and is approximately 10 minutes from Omaha, Nebraska. Waubonsie State Park is in southwest Iowa and is located near Nebraska and Missouri. Although Missouri does not charge a state park user fee, the state of Nebraska charges residents a \$6 one-day entrance fee to a state park, and nonresidents are charged \$8. The annual fee is \$30 for residents and \$45 for nonresidents. A duplicate or second vehicle pass is \$15 for residents and \$22.50 for nonresidents. Since Iowa does not charge state park entrance fees, numerous Nebraska residents visit Lake Manawa State Park.

Assumptions

Lake Manawa State Park:

- There will be an estimated 720,000 nonresident visitors per year at Lake Manawa State Park. There will be four persons in each vehicle, so there are 180,000 nonresident vehicles that enter the park.
- It is estimated that 60.0%, or 108,000 vehicles, are repeat customers who visit 25 times per year. This equals 4,320 unique nonresident vehicles (108,000 vehicles/25 visits).
- It is estimated there will be a 30.0% decrease in attendance due to the fee, which reduces the number of unique vehicles of nonresidents who will purchase an annual pass to 3,024 in year one.
- There will be a 5.0% increase in attendance in year two, with annual passes sold for 3,175 vehicles of nonresidents.
- Up to 72,000 nonresidents will purchase a daily pass for their vehicles. It is estimated the first year would have a 30.0% decrease in attendance due to the fee, which would reduce the number of vehicles that enter the park to 50,400 in year one. In year two, the number of daily passes sold will increase by 5.0% to 52,920.

Waubonsie State Park:

- There are 79,000 nonresident visitors per year at Waubonsie State Park. There are four persons in each vehicle, so there are 20,000 nonresident vehicles that enter the park.

- It is estimated that 60.0%, or 12,000 vehicles, are repeat customers who visit 25 times per year. This equals 470 unique nonresident vehicles (12,000 vehicles/25 visits).
- It is estimated there will be a 30.0% decrease in attendance due to the fee, which reduces the number of unique vehicles of nonresidents who will purchase an annual pass to 330 in year one.
- There will be a 5.0% increase in attendance in year two, with annual passes sold for 350 vehicles of nonresidents.
- Up to 7,900 nonresidents will purchase a daily pass for their vehicles. It is estimated the first year would have a 30.0% decrease in attendance due to the fee, which would reduce the number of vehicles that enter the park to 5,500 in year one. In year two, the number of daily passes sold will increase by 5.0% to 5,800.

The DNR estimates the following fees will be collected as summarized in **Table 1**:

Table 1 – State Park User Fee Pilot Program Fees Collected

Fees	FY 2020	FY 2021
Annual Pass Fee	\$ 134,000	\$ 141,000
Daily Pass Fee	280,000	294,000
Total Fees	\$414,000	\$ 435,000

Both parks will require four self-service kiosk machines that would not need to be staffed. The estimated cost for the eight machines is \$120,000. Other operating expenditures are detailed in **Table 2**:

Table 2 – State Park User Fee Pilot Program Expenditures

Expenditures	FY 2020	FY 2021
Purchase of Eight Kiosk Machines	\$ 120,000	\$ 0
Staff — Enforcement and Administration	54,000	57,000
Support and Supplies for Operations	20,000	21,000
Point of Sale Equipment for Pay Stations	25,000	26,000
Total Expenditures	\$219,000	\$ 104,000

Fiscal Impact

The estimated fiscal impact of [SF 306](#) as amended by House Amendment [S-3203](#) is summarized in **Table 3**:

Table 3 – State Park User Fee Pilot Program Fiscal Impact

Description	FY 2020	FY 2021
Revenue	\$ 414,000	\$ 435,000
Expenditures	219,000	104,000
Total Net Revenue	\$195,000	\$ 331,000

Source

Department of Natural Resources

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

April 23, 2019

The fiscal note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.

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