

**BILL SUMMARY**  
1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 58<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>HB 1681</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>FA1</b>
<b>Request Number:</b>	
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Rep. Grego</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>2/23/2021</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>See analysis below</b>

**Research Analysis**

The amendment to HB1681 clarifies that a person must be an Oklahoma resident to purchase the \$20 annual park pass.

Prepared By: Emily Wendler

**Fiscal Analysis**

According to officials at the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation HB 1681 has the potential to significantly impact OTRD's budget.

First, by creating such a pass, it would likely discourage patrons from visiting all of the State Parks, which is the opposite of the current program objective. This would negatively impact revenue for the OTRD by decreasing current pass sales. According to OTRD, the most likely users of such a pass are out-of-state patrons, boat owners and local citizens who live near a State Park. As these patrons tend to use a lot of resources at the parks, receiving \$40 less for Oklahoma citizens per pass and \$55 less for out-of-state pass holders would both decrease revenue for State Parks while putting stress on the infrastructure of the parks.

Additionally, the program is still new, having only been in place since June 2020, and according to OTRD officials, the program needs time to take hold. Also the vendor currently does not have a solution for creating this type of pass, but such solution will likely cost OTRD additional money.

OTRD's additional reasons for the current pass include:

- Decades of neglect have left the State Parks in poor condition;
- Current assets of OTRD total \$1B;
- Asset maintenance costs are \$40M per year;
- OTRD made internal changes to reduce costs of the State Park system;
- OTRD generated new revenue sources for maintenance needs;
- The \$11M shortfall of capital maintenance funds must be decreased by receiving more funding or reducing assets.

Therefore, any reduction in the current pass system for State Parks could dramatically affect the revenue the OTRD has for capital maintenance. With a decrease in revenue, OTRD would need additional appropriations to help keep up with capital maintenance in the parks. As the OTRD is an appropriated agency, the State's budget and appropriations would be affected by additional appropriations to the OTRD.

The change in the floor amendment does not affect the potential impact of HB 1681.

Prepared By: Mariah Searock

**Other Considerations**

None.

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