OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Office of Research and Drafting

Legislative Budget Office

S.B. 223
136th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Click here for S.B. 223's Bill Analysis

Version: As Passed by the House

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Patton

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill could reduce revenues to the State Park Fund (Fund 5120), which supports the operation and maintenance of state parks. The magnitude of the loss is uncertain and depends on the number of veterans and service members who use a discount, created by the bill, on state parks services and rentals. There are about 800,000 eligible individuals in Ohio, suggesting that modest participation in the discounts could result in revenue losses in the millions of dollars annually.

Detailed Analysis

The bill could reduce revenues to the State Park Fund (Fund 5120), which supports the operation and maintenance of state parks. The amount of revenue loss is uncertain and depends on how many of the approximately 800,000 veterans and service members living in Ohio choose to use a discount, created by the bill, on state parks services and rentals. For example, if 5% of eligible individuals received an average $50 discount, the annual revenue loss would be about $2.0 million. Fund 5120 provides about one-quarter of the funding used to support the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' (ODNR) Division of Parks and Watercraft.

The bill requires the Division of Parks and Watercraft to adopt rules providing veterans and service members at least 25% off all park services and rentals. These include camping, cabins, and shelter house rentals, but not merchandise purchases. Eligibility would be verified by forms of military identification specified in the bill. In addition to lost revenue because of the discount, ODNR would incur some administrative costs associated with rulemaking.

Current law already provides discounts for certain groups. Active and retired military receive 10% off overnight facilities, Golden Buckeye cardholders receive up to 50% off camping and 10% off other rentals, and disabled veterans and former prisoners of war (POWs) may camp

for free. By comparison, the bill mandates a broader and more generous discount, applying to all veterans and service members, regardless of age, disability, or residency.

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