

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the record, my name is Bob Paulson, and I represent District 3 in Minot. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I'm here to submit House Bill 1357 for your consideration.

You may notice that this bill has no co-sponsors. This was my first bill in the new system, and I introduced it into the system and then set about gathering co-sponsors. And the system allowed me to do so! I just couldn't get them on the bill. So let me just say that you would have been really impressed with the list of folks who agreed to co-sponsor.

House Bill 1357 deals with annual permits to state parks, and seeks to do two things. First, it allows a family who desires to purchase a second annual permit for use by members of the same household to do so at a reduced rate. The normal rate for an annual pass is \$35. This bill would reduce the cost of the second pass to \$20.

I had initially submitted the bill to have all additional passes to be sold for \$5 each, but then I received some great input from the Parks and Rec staff. They demonstrated the loss of revenue that would represent, and stated that second passes were often bought not to be used by the same household, but to be given as gifts, etc. Based on that feedback, I raised the price of the second pass to \$20 and stipulated that the reduced price would only be offered if the second permit was to be used by members of the same household. So, if the second and subsequent passes were purchased for gifts or any other reason, the price would remain \$35. This should be able to be accomplished within the current system of the static cling decal, since there are already discounts offered for senior citizens and disabled veterans. This would add a third category where the purchaser simply needs to certify that the additional permit is to be utilized by members of the same household.

I don't believe that the "same household" requirement is calculated into the fiscal note, as the fiscal notes states "Multiplied all duplicate annual passes sold by \$15". This is found in section 2B of the fiscal note. The fiscal note appears to be calculated based on the assumption that all additional permits are sold only to the same household, and never given as gifts or purchased for other purposes. During research for this bill I was informed by the Parks and Rec department that there are "a lot" of people who buy additional permits as gifts or for other

reasons, and that they are not used by members of the same household. Those additional permits would be sold at full price, which calls into question the calculations in the fiscal note. To be fair, I don't think they track that data specifically, so it would likely be difficult to determine exact amounts, but I wanted to mention that for your consideration as you review the fiscal note.

The second thing the bill seeks to do is allow Parks and Rec staff to utilize their data base to confirm that a valid annual permit has been purchased for entry into a park. Currently, if you purchase an annual permit, and you leave it at home because you took a different vehicle to the park, you are required to pay full price for a day pass, even though you purchased an annual permit. I jokingly refer to this as the "bad memory tax".

This happened to me when my wife suggested we take a different vehicle to the state park over an hour away. Upon arrival, I realized that we didn't have the permit with us. I said, "It shouldn't be a problem, they should have all of our info in the data base." I went into the office and showed my ID and explained the situation. I was told by the staff member that she was actually not allowed to look in the data base to confirm my permit status, and instead I would have to pay full price for a day pass. I have since talked to many other people who have experienced this same problem.

This bill seeks to alleviate that problem by allowing the staff to confirm via valid identification that the individual has purchased an annual permit, and allow entrance via a day pass at no charge.

Mr. Chairman, that is the bill, I ask for a Do Pass and I would be happy to answer any questions.