

Good morning Chairman Clemens and members of the Senate Transportation committee. 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.

House Bill 1357 deals with annual permits to state parks and seeks to address an issue that perhaps you or someone you know has experienced. That is the issue of purchasing an annual permit to our many great state parks and arriving at a park only to discover that the permit sticker is on your other vehicle. At that point, you get to pay for a day pass to the park. I jokingly refer to this as the "bad memory tax."

My initial thought was to have a bill would allow park personnel to check the database to confirm that you were a holder of an annual permit. You would then be given a day pass at no charge. However, there proved to be a few challenges with that idea, including lack of staff at the entrance of some parks, lack of reliable internet connectivity and difficulty in determining whether or not the permit sticker was being used by someone else at the same time.

The solution that was arrived at while working with Parks and Rec staff was to offer a second annual pass at a reduced rate, but only if that second pass was to be used by members of the same household. The normal rate for an annual pass is \$35. This bill would reduce the cost of the second pass purchased to be used by members of the same household to \$20. If the second and subsequent passes were purchased as gifts or for any other reason, the price for the additional permits would remain \$35.

Currently there are 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.

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