BILL SUMMARY

1st Session of the 58th Legislature

Bill No.: SB 804
Version: CS
Request Number: 8085
Author: Rep. Newton
Date: 4/6/2021
Impact: Unknown total

Research Analysis

Pending

Prepared By: House Research Staff

Fiscal Analysis

SB 804 allows for the Department of Tourism and Recreation to fine those parked in "Reserved" campsites or who enter an entry fee area without first paying the fee \$50 on the first occurrence. Currently Tourism charges \$20 for a Premium Parking citation fee. From September 2020 to February 2021, Tourism has collected about \$16,175 in fees, and expect to collect about \$32,000 yearly at this rate. If the fine was increased to \$50 and expanded to cover "Reserved" campsites Tourism expects to collect about \$160,000 yearly. Based on current data Tourism has, it is not possible to calculate what it might collect from second (\$100) and third (\$250) fines. Tourism expects to use most of this money to fund capital maintenance projects for the State Parks.

Additionally, SB 804 creates a new parking pass for state parks. Oklahoma residents may purchase a \$20 parking pass for one year for one state park, instead of the current \$60 yearly parking fee that is for all state parks. All out of state residents would be required to buy the \$75 yearly pass or day passes at the parks.

In the months of January and February of 2021, Tourism sold 516 Oklahoma resident passes at \$60 a parking pass. That brought in \$30,960 in revenue. If all Oklahoma residents bought a \$20 pass instead, Tourism would have received only \$10,320, resulting in a decrease in revenue of \$20,640 for the first two months of 2021. While the total decrease in funding from a lower parking fee is hard to determine as parking passes in general are new, and Tourism is unsure of how many residents would opt for the \$20 one park pass versus the \$60 universal pass, having the \$20 pass would decrease revenue for Tourism that is largely earmarked for capital maintenance in the parks.

As SB 804 creates a new parking pass which is likely to decrease revenue for Tourism, but also creates new fees which are likely to increase revenue for Tourism, the total effect of SB 804 is unknown. It is likely though, Tourism would see a decrease in revenue as parking fees make up a larger portion of Tourisms revenue source than citation fees.

Prepared By: Mariah Searock

Other Considerations

None.

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