

1 H.745

2 Introduced by Representatives Martin of Wolcott and Weed of Enosburgh

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Conservation; forests and parks; admission fees and charges

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to allow

7 year-round free admission to Vermont State Parks for Vermont residents.

8 An act relating to free day use admission to State parks and State forests for  
9 Vermont residents

10 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

11 Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 2603(c) is amended to read:

12 (c)(1) The Commissioner, subject to the direction and approval of the  
13 ~~secretary~~ Secretary, shall ~~promulgate and~~ publish regulations in the name of  
14 the Agency for the use of State forests, or park lands, including reasonable fees  
15 or charges for the use of the lands, roads, camping sites, buildings, and other  
16 facilities and for the harvesting of timber or removal of minerals or other  
17 resources from such lands, notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 603.

18 (2) The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation shall be  
19 permitted to temporarily (not to exceed one season per project) adjust fees and  
20 charges at any area for the purpose of bona fide scientific research.

1           (3) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, the  
2           Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation shall be permitted to develop  
3           State park services, promotional programs, and vacation or special event  
4           packages and adjust rates and fees for those services and packages to promote  
5           the park system or increase campground occupancy.

6           (4) The Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation shall allow  
7           Vermont residents year-round free admission to Vermont State forests or park  
8           lands for day use activities.

9           (5) Fees charged under this section shall be reported in accordance with  
10          32 V.S.A. § 605.

11          Sec. 2. ADJUSTMENT OF AGENCY FEES

12          It is the intent of the General Assembly that in fiscal year 2015 the Agency  
13          shall adjust its other fees in an amount equal to the amount of revenue lost as  
14          a result of allowing free day-use admission to Vermont residents under  
15          10 V.S.A. § 2603(c)(4).

16          Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

17          This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.