

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 436

BY REPRESENTATIVE DICKERSON

VETERANS: Authorizes the appointment of veterans as wardens at state and municipal parks

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 33:4558 and R.S. 56:1688(A), relative to state and municipal
3 parks; to provide for the use of veterans as police officers in a municipal park; to
4 provide for the use of veterans as state park wardens; to provide for the definition of
5 veteran; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 33:4558 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §4558. Exercise of police power over municipally-owned places of amusement

9 Any municipality or local governing authority may exercise unlimited police
10 power for the preservation of peace and order, comfort, convenience, and good
11 conduct upon all parks, playgrounds, swimming pools and other places of
12 amusement owned and operated by the municipality, within or outside their
13 corporate limits, may pass any ordinance necessary for these purposes, and may
14 impose penalties for violations of the ordinance. The police officers of the
15 municipality or local governing authority, which may include the appointment of
16 veterans as defined in R.S. 13:5364, may make arrests for violations of the ordinance
17 within or without the corporate limits of the municipality.

1 Section 2. R.S. 56:1688(A) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

2 §1688. Park wardens; powers and duties

3 A. The secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism may
4 appoint competent men, which may include the appointment of veterans as defined
5 in R.S. 13:5364, to serve as state park wardens.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 436 Original

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Dickerson

Abstract: Authorizes the secretary of the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism to appoint veterans to serve as state park wardens.

Present law authorizes municipalities to exercise unlimited police power for the preservation of peace and order in parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, and other amusement locations operated by the municipality.

Present law allows police officers of the municipality to make arrests for violation of ordinances within or without the corporate limits of the municipality.

Proposed law retains present law and authorizes the municipality or local governing authority to appoint veterans to serve as police officers.

Present law authorizes the secretary of the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism to appoint competent men to serve as police officers in local parks.

Present law authorizes state park wardens to enforce all rules and regulations of the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, office of state parks, and all laws of the state of La. within their jurisdiction.

Proposed law retains present law and authorizes the secretary of the Dept. of Culture, Recreation and Tourism to appoint veterans to serve as state park wardens.

Proposed law defines "veteran" as a former or current member of the U.S. Armed Forces or organized militia of the several states and territories, including but not limited to a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Natl. Guard, Air Natl. Guard, Reserves, State Guard, or a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service, Environmental Science Services Admin., or Natl. Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin., or its predecessor, the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

(Amends R.S. 33:4558 and R.S. 56:1688(A))