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# SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair  
2023 - 2024 Regular Session

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## AB 618 (Bauer-Kahan) - State parks: reservations

**Version:** July 5, 2023

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** September 1, 2023

**Policy Vote:** N.R. & W. 9 - 0

**Mandate:** No

**Consultant:** Ashley Ames

**Bill Summary:** This bill would require changes to the Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) camping reservation system, and would institute a reservation lottery drawing for up to five of the most popular camping and lodging sites.

\*\*\*\*\* **ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE** \*\*\*\*\*

**The following information is revised to reflect amendments  
adopted by the committee on September 1, 2023**

### **Fiscal Impact:**

- Unknown, potentially significant ongoing costs, possibly in the hundreds of thousands or low millions of dollars annually (State Parks and Recreation Fund [SPRF] or General Fund) for State Parks to implement the provisions of this bill. In addition, to the extent that this bill results in forfeited reservations costs that otherwise would have been refunded, it could result in potential revenue increases of an unknown amount (SPRF).

**Committee Amendments:** These amendments would strike the requirement to offer walkup site reservations and show their real-time availability online, eliminate the issuance of reservation credits, and make other changes. Specifically, these amendments would:

1. Apply changes to the units of the state park system operated by the department.
2. Eliminate requiring the department to issue credits that can be used for future reservations in certain circumstances, and instead provide for partially refunded reservation costs as specified.
3. More closely align the timing of cancellations, notices of late arrival, and no shows with current State Parks policies.
4. Strike the requirement that State Parks make certain sites available for walkup reservations and show their real-time availability online.
5. Allow reminders to be communicated in forms other than email.
6. Specify that forfeited reservation costs shall be deposited into the State Parks and Recreation Fund.
7. Strike requirement that the reservation drawing be held at least once per year.

8. Clarify reporting requirement to report on the outcomes of the reservation drawing.

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