

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 honorably discharged as police officers in  
4 a municipal park; to provide for the use of veterans honorably discharged as state  
5 park wardens; to provide for the definition of veteran; and to provide for related  
6 matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

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

9 §4558. Exercise of police power over municipally-owned places of amusement

10 A. Any municipality or local governing authority may exercise unlimited  
11 police power for the preservation of peace and order, comfort, convenience, and  
12 good conduct upon all parks, playgrounds, swimming pools and other places of  
13 amusement owned and operated by the municipality, within or outside their  
14 corporate limits, may pass any ordinance necessary for these purposes, and may  
15 impose penalties for violations of the ordinance. The police officers of the  
16 municipality or local governing authority, which may include the appointment of  
17 veterans honorably discharged as defined in R.S. 15:1199.23, may make arrests for  
18 violations of the ordinance within or without the corporate limits of the municipality.



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 honorably discharged to serve as state park wardens.

Proposed law defines "veteran" as an honorably discharged 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.

Proposed law provides that if the veteran is employed by either a municipality, local governing authority, or office of state parks, the veteran must meet all training requirements and qualifications for employment.

Proposed law requires the veteran to be certified by the Council on Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) or be qualified by P.O.S.T.

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

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Judiciary to the original bill:

1. Provide that the veteran is an honorably discharged former member of the military.
2. Provide that a veteran employed by a municipality, local governing authority, or office of state parks, the veteran must meet all training requirements and qualifications for employment.
3. Require a veteran provided for in proposed law to be certified by the Council on Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) or be qualified by P.O.S.T.