
SENATE BILL 5243

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senators Oke, Rasmussen, Winsley, Morton, Benton, Prince, Stevens, Horn, Zarelli, Long, Roach, Swecker, Deccio, McCaslin, Hale, Sellar, Johnson, Bauer, McAuliffe and Haugen

Read first time 01/20/97. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Parks.

1 AN ACT Relating to exempting disabled veterans from reservation
2 fees for state parks; and amending RCW 43.51.055.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.51.055 and 1989 c 135 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The commission shall grant to any person who meets the
7 eligibility requirements specified in this section a senior citizen's
8 pass which shall (a) entitle such person, and members of his camping
9 unit, to a fifty percent reduction in the campsite rental fee
10 prescribed by the commission, and (b) entitle such person to free
11 admission to any state park.

12 (2) The commission shall grant a senior citizen's pass to any
13 person who applies for the same and who meets the following
14 requirements:

15 (a) The person is at least sixty-two years of age; and

16 (b) The person is a domiciliary of the state of Washington and
17 meets reasonable residency requirements prescribed by the commission;
18 and

1 (c) The person and his or her spouse have a combined income which
2 would qualify the person for a property tax exemption pursuant to RCW
3 84.36.381, as now law or hereafter amended. The financial eligibility
4 requirements of this subparagraph (c) shall apply regardless of whether
5 the applicant for a senior citizen's pass owns taxable property or has
6 obtained or applied for such property tax exemption.

7 (3) Each senior citizen's pass granted pursuant to this section is
8 valid so long as the senior citizen meets the requirements of
9 subsection (2)(b) of this section. Notwithstanding, any senior citizen
10 meeting the eligibility requirements of this section may make a
11 voluntary donation for the upkeep and maintenance of state parks.

12 (4) A holder of a senior citizen's pass shall surrender the pass
13 upon request of a commission employee when the employee has reason to
14 believe the holder fails to meet the criteria in subsection (2)(a),
15 (b), or (c) of this section. The holder shall have the pass returned
16 upon providing proof to the satisfaction of the director of the parks
17 and recreation commission that the holder does meet the eligibility
18 criteria for obtaining the senior citizen's pass.

19 (5) Any resident of Washington who is disabled as defined by the
20 social security administration and who receives social security
21 benefits for that disability, or any other benefits for that disability
22 from any other governmental or nongovernmental source, or who is
23 entitled to benefits for permanent disability under RCW 71A.10.020(2)
24 due to unemployability full time at the minimum wage, or who is legally
25 blind or profoundly deaf, or who has been issued a card, decal, or
26 special license plate for a permanent disability under RCW 46.16.381
27 shall be entitled to receive, regardless of age and upon making
28 application therefor, a disability pass at no cost to the holder. The
29 pass shall (a) entitle such person, and members of his camping unit, to
30 a fifty percent reduction in the campsite rental fee prescribed by the
31 commission, and (b) entitle such person to free admission to any state
32 park.

33 (6) A card, decal, or special license plate issued for a permanent
34 disability under RCW 46.16.381 may serve as a pass for the holder to
35 entitle that person and members of the person's camping unit to a fifty
36 percent reduction in the campsite rental fee prescribed by the
37 commission, and to allow the holder free admission to state parks.

38 (7) Any resident of Washington who is a veteran and has a service-
39 connected disability of at least thirty percent shall be entitled to

1 receive a lifetime veteran's disability pass at no cost to the holder.
2 The pass shall (a) entitle such person, and members of his camping
3 unit, to free use of any campsite within any state park(~~(, and)~~); (b)
4 entitle such person to free admission to any state park; and (c)
5 entitle such person to an exemption from any reservation fees.

6 (8) All passes issued pursuant to this section shall be valid at
7 all parks any time during the year: PROVIDED, That the pass shall not
8 be valid for admission to concessionaire operated facilities.

9 (9) This section shall not affect or otherwise impair the power of
10 the commission to continue or discontinue any other programs it has
11 adopted for senior citizens.

12 (10) The commission shall adopt such rules and regulations as it
13 finds appropriate for the administration of this section. Among other
14 things, such rules and regulations shall prescribe a definition of
15 "camping unit" which will authorize a reasonable number of persons
16 traveling with the person having a pass to stay at the campsite rented
17 by such person, a minimum Washington residency requirement for
18 applicants for a senior citizen's pass and an application form to be
19 completed by applicants for a senior citizen's pass.

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