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SENATE BILL 5199

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Keiser, Doumit, Eide, McAuliffe and Winsley

Read first time 01/17/2003. Referred to Committee on Parks, Fish & Wildlife.

1 AN ACT Relating to park passes; and amending RCW 79A.05.065.

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

3 **Sec. 1.** RCW 79A.05.065 and 1999 c 249 s 305 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

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

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

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

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

18 ~~(c) The person and his or her spouse have a combined income which~~  
19 ~~would qualify the person for a property tax exemption pursuant to RCW~~

1 ~~84.36.381, as now law or hereafter amended. The financial eligibility~~  
2 ~~requirements of this subparagraph (c) shall apply regardless of whether~~  
3 ~~the applicant for a senior citizen's pass owns taxable property or has~~  
4 ~~obtained or applied for such property tax exemption)).~~

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

10 (4) A holder of a senior citizen's pass shall surrender the pass  
11 upon request of a commission employee when the employee has reason to  
12 believe the holder fails to meet the criteria in subsection (2)(a)(~~7~~)  
13 or (b)(~~7~~, ~~or~~ ~~(c)~~) of this section. The holder shall have the pass  
14 returned upon providing proof to the satisfaction of the director of  
15 the parks and recreation commission that the holder does meet the  
16 eligibility criteria for obtaining the senior citizen's pass.

17 (5) Any resident of Washington who is disabled as defined by the  
18 social security administration and who receives social security  
19 benefits for that disability, or any other benefits for that disability  
20 from any other governmental or nongovernmental source, or who is  
21 entitled to benefits for permanent disability under RCW 71A.10.020(3)  
22 due to unemployability full time at the minimum wage, or who is legally  
23 blind or profoundly deaf, or who has been issued a card, decal, or  
24 special license plate for a permanent disability under RCW 46.16.381  
25 shall be entitled to receive, regardless of age and upon making  
26 application therefor, a disability pass at no cost to the holder. The  
27 pass shall (a) entitle such person, and members of his or her camping  
28 unit, to a fifty percent reduction in the campsite rental fee  
29 prescribed by the commission, and (b) entitle such person to free  
30 admission to any state park.

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

36 (7) Any resident of Washington who is a veteran and has a service-  
37 connected disability of at least thirty percent shall be entitled to  
38 receive a lifetime veteran's disability pass at no cost to the holder.

1 The pass shall (a) entitle such person, and members of his or her  
2 camping unit, to free use of any campsite within any state park; (b)  
3 entitle such person to free admission to any state park; and (c)  
4 entitle such person to an exemption from any reservation fees.

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

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

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

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