

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5289

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As of February 6, 2013

**Title:** An act relating to the discover pass.

**Brief Description:** Concerning the discover pass.

**Sponsors:** Senators Hargrove, Hatfield, Ranker, Hobbs, Sheldon and Schoesler.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Natural Resources & Parks: 2/05/13.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS

**Staff:** Curt Gavigan (786-7437)

**Background:** Discover Pass Requirement Generally. In general, a Discover Pass is required for any motor vehicle to park at or operate on recreation sites or lands managed by the State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), or Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). Specific areas where the pass is required include State Parks, DNR managed uplands, and DFW wildlife areas and water access sites.

The statutory price of an annual Discover Pass is \$30.

DFW Vehicle Access Pass. The DFW Vehicle Access Pass (VAP) is issued free with certain hunting and fishing licenses and allows access to DFW managed lands. The VAP is issued along with licenses including:

- trapping licenses and big and small game hunting licenses;
- combination, saltwater, and freshwater recreational fishing licenses; and
- watchable wildlife decals.

**Summary of Bill:** Operating on Certain Agency Roads. Operation of a motor vehicle on State Park, DNR, and DFW managed roads that are not blocked by a gate is allowed without the need for a Discover Pass.

Certain Fish and Wildlife-Related Discover Pass Discounts. Those who purchase a fish and wildlife license qualifying for the VAP may, during the same transaction, purchase a Discover Pass for \$20 instead of the usual \$30.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** CON: This legislation represents a net loss in revenue. We cannot, with no exceptions, cut funding to parks.

OTHER: The agencies support the bill's effort to create equity amongst the various areas of Washington, and appreciate the sponsors' work on the bill language. The revenue stream impacts an ability to maintain parks areas for the public. Clarification of language upon entry to parks regarding the Discover Pass may be necessary.

**Persons Testifying:** CON: Brian Yearout, WA Federation of State Employees.

OTHER: Mark Mauren, DNR; Greg Schirato, DFW; Daniel Farber, State Parks; James King, Citizens for Parks and Recreation.