
HOUSE BILL 2710

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2016 Regular Session

By Representatives McCabe, Kilduff, Johnson, Kochmar, Caldier, Wylie, Walsh, Dent, Muri, Wilson, and Shea

Read first time 01/19/16. Referred to Committee on Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to eligibility for lifetime veteran's disability
2 passes; amending RCW 79A.05.065; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes the significant
5 contributions veterans have made to the United States and to
6 Washington state through their military service. The legislature
7 further recognizes the potential health benefits of outdoor
8 recreation to all people, including veterans with disabilities.
9 Washington already provides disabled veterans who are residents of
10 the state with the benefit of free access to state parks through the
11 lifetime veteran's disability pass. However, other states extend
12 disabled veteran's state parks passes to veterans who are residents
13 of other states, including residents of Washington. The legislature
14 intends to extend eligibility for Washington's existing lifetime
15 veteran's disability pass to disabled veterans who are residents of
16 other states.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 79A.05.065 and 2011 c 171 s 115 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

19 (1)(a) The commission shall grant to any person who meets the
20 eligibility requirements specified in this section a senior citizen's

1 pass which shall: (i) Entitle such a person, and members of his or
2 her camping unit, to a fifty percent reduction in the campsite rental
3 fee prescribed by the commission; and (ii) entitle such a person to
4 free admission to any state park.

5 (b) The commission shall grant a senior citizen's pass to any
6 person who applies for the senior citizen's pass and who meets the
7 following requirements:

8 (i) The person is at least sixty-two years of age;

9 (ii) The person is a domiciliary of the state of Washington and
10 meets reasonable residency requirements prescribed by the commission;
11 and

12 (iii) The person and his or her spouse have a combined income
13 that would qualify the person for a property tax exemption pursuant
14 to RCW 84.36.381. The financial eligibility requirements of this
15 subsection (1)(b)(iii) apply regardless of whether the applicant for
16 a senior citizen's pass owns taxable property or has obtained or
17 applied for such property tax exemption.

18 (c) Each senior citizen's pass granted pursuant to this section
19 is valid as long as the senior citizen meets the requirements of
20 (b)(ii) of this subsection. A senior citizen meeting the eligibility
21 requirements of this section may make a voluntary donation for the
22 upkeep and maintenance of state parks.

23 (d) A holder of a senior citizen's pass shall surrender the pass
24 upon request of a commission employee when the employee has reason to
25 believe the holder fails to meet the criteria in (b) of this
26 subsection. The holder shall have the pass returned upon providing
27 proof to the satisfaction of the director that the holder meets the
28 eligibility criteria for obtaining the senior citizen's pass.

29 (2)(a) Any resident of Washington who is disabled as defined by
30 the social security administration and who receives social security
31 benefits for that disability, or any other benefits for that
32 disability from any other governmental or nongovernmental source, or
33 who is entitled to benefits for permanent disability under RCW
34 71A.10.020(~~((+3))~~) (5) due to unemployability full time at the minimum
35 wage, or who is legally blind or profoundly deaf, or who has been
36 issued a card, decal, or special license plate for a permanent
37 disability under RCW 46.19.010 shall be entitled to receive,
38 regardless of age and upon making application therefor, a disability
39 pass at no cost to the holder. The pass shall: (i) Entitle such a
40 person, and members of his or her camping unit, to a fifty percent

1 reduction in the campsite rental fee prescribed by the commission;
2 and (ii) entitle such a person to free admission to any state park.

3 (b) A card, decal, or special license plate issued for a
4 permanent disability under RCW 46.19.010 may serve as a pass for the
5 holder to entitle that person and members of the person's camping
6 unit to a fifty percent reduction in the campsite rental fee
7 prescribed by the commission, and to allow the holder free admission
8 to state parks.

9 (3) Any (~~resident of Washington who is a~~) veteran (~~and has~~)
10 with a service-connected disability of at least thirty percent shall
11 be entitled to receive a lifetime veteran's disability pass at no
12 cost to the holder. The pass shall: (a) Entitle such a person, and
13 members of his or her camping unit, to free use of any campsite
14 within any state park; (b) entitle such a person to free admission to
15 any state park; and (c) entitle such a person to an exemption from
16 any reservation fees.

17 (4)(a) Any Washington state resident who provides out-of-home
18 care to a child, as either a licensed foster-family home or a person
19 related to the child, is entitled to a foster home pass.

20 (b) An applicant for a foster home pass must request a pass in
21 the manner required by the commission. Upon receipt of a properly
22 submitted request, the commission shall verify with the department of
23 social and health services that the applicant qualifies under (a) of
24 this subsection. Once issued, a foster home pass is valid for the
25 period, which may not be less than one year, designated by the
26 commission.

27 (c) When accompanied by a child receiving out-of-home care from
28 the pass holder, a foster home pass: (i) Entitles such a person, and
29 members of his or her camping unit, to free use of any campsite
30 within any state park; and (ii) entitles such a person to free
31 admission to any state park.

32 (d) For the purposes of this subsection (4):

33 (i) "Out-of-home care" means placement in a foster-family home or
34 with a person related to the child under the authority of chapter
35 13.32A, 13.34, or 74.13 RCW;

36 (ii) "Foster-family home" has the same meaning as defined in RCW
37 74.15.020; and

38 (iii) "Person related to the child" means those persons referred
39 to in RCW 74.15.020(2)(a) (i) through (vi).

1 (5) All passes issued pursuant to this section are valid at all
2 parks any time during the year. However, the pass is not valid for
3 admission to concessionaire operated facilities.

4 (6) The commission shall negotiate payment and costs, to allow
5 holders of a foster home pass free access and usage of park
6 campsites, with the following nonoperated, nonstate-owned parks:
7 Central Ferry, Chief Timothy, Crow Butte, and Lyons Ferry. The
8 commission shall seek state general fund reimbursement on a biennial
9 basis.

10 (7) The commission may deny or revoke any Washington state park
11 pass issued under this section for cause, including but not limited
12 to the following:

13 (a) Except for passes issued under subsection (3) of this
14 section, residency outside the state of Washington;

15 (b) Violation of laws or state park rules resulting in eviction
16 from a state park;

17 (c) Intimidating, obstructing, or assaulting a park employee or
18 park volunteer who is engaged in the performance of official duties;

19 (d) Fraudulent use of a pass;

20 (e) Providing false information or documentation in the
21 application for a state parks pass;

22 (f) Refusing to display or show the pass to park employees when
23 requested; or

24 (g) Failing to provide current eligibility information upon
25 request by the agency or when eligibility ceases or changes.

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

29 (9) The commission may engage in a mutually agreed upon
30 reciprocal or discounted program for all or specific pass programs
31 with other outdoor recreation agencies.

32 (10) The commission shall adopt those rules as it finds
33 appropriate for the administration of this section. Among other
34 things, the rules shall prescribe a definition of "camping unit"
35 which will authorize a reasonable number of persons traveling with
36 the person having a pass to stay at the campsite rented by such a
37 person, a minimum Washington residency requirement for applicants for

1 a senior citizen's pass, and an application form to be completed by
2 applicants for a senior citizen's pass.

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