
HOUSE BILL 1247

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By Representatives McCabe, Kilduff, Muri, Caldier, Wylie, Dent, Tarleton, Haler, Stanford, Appleton, McBride, and Young

Read first time 01/16/17. 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.** (1) The legislature recognizes:

5 (a) The significant contributions veterans have made to the
6 United States and to Washington state through their military service;

7 (b) The potential health benefits of outdoor recreation to all
8 people, including veterans with disabilities; and

9 (c) The concrete economic benefits to Washington's small
10 businesses and rural communities that result when disabled veterans
11 and other individuals choose Washington as their outdoor recreation
12 destination.

13 (2) Washington already provides disabled veterans who are
14 residents of the state with the benefit of free access to state parks
15 through the lifetime veteran's disability pass. However, our neighbor
16 to the south, Oregon, extends disabled veteran's state parks passes
17 to veterans who are residents of other states, including residents of
18 Washington, while Washington does not have a reciprocal policy in
19 place to offer similar recognition to Oregon veterans.

20 (3) Therefore, the legislature intends to extend eligibility for
21 Washington's existing lifetime veteran's disability pass to disabled

1 veterans who are residents of Oregon, both in order to recognize the
2 service of those individuals and to encourage disabled veterans who
3 live in Oregon to recreate in our state.

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

6 (1)(a) 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: (i) Entitle such a person, and members of his or
9 her camping unit, to a fifty percent reduction in the campsite rental
10 fee prescribed by the commission; and (ii) entitle such a person to
11 free admission to any state park.

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

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

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

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

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

30 (d) A holder of a senior citizen's pass shall surrender the pass
31 upon request of a commission employee when the employee has reason to
32 believe the holder fails to meet the criteria in (b) of this
33 subsection. The holder shall have the pass returned upon providing
34 proof to the satisfaction of the director that the holder meets the
35 eligibility criteria for obtaining the senior citizen's pass.

36 (2)(a) Any resident of Washington who is disabled as defined by
37 the social security administration and who receives social security
38 benefits for that disability, or any other benefits for that
39 disability from any other governmental or nongovernmental source, or

1 who is entitled to benefits for permanent disability under RCW
2 71A.10.020(~~((3))~~) (5) due to unemployability full time at the minimum
3 wage, or who is legally blind or profoundly deaf, or who has been
4 issued a card, decal, or special license plate for a permanent
5 disability under RCW 46.19.010 shall be entitled to receive,
6 regardless of age and upon making application therefor, a disability
7 pass at no cost to the holder. The pass shall: (i) Entitle such a
8 person, and members of his or her camping unit, to a fifty percent
9 reduction in the campsite rental fee prescribed by the commission;
10 and (ii) entitle such a person to free admission to any state park.

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

17 (3)(a) Any resident of Washington or Oregon who is a veteran
18 (~~((and has))~~) with a service-connected disability of at least thirty
19 percent shall be entitled to receive a lifetime veteran's disability
20 pass at no cost to the holder. The pass shall: (~~((a))~~) (i) Entitle
21 such a person, and members of his or her camping unit, to free use of
22 any campsite within any state park; (~~((b))~~) (ii) entitle such a
23 person to free admission to any state park; and (~~((c))~~) (iii) entitle
24 such a person to an exemption from any reservation fees.

25 (b) Oregon resident eligibility for the pass under (a) of this
26 subsection is effective contingent upon reciprocal statutory
27 authority in the state of Oregon providing for similar cost-free
28 access to Oregon's state parks system for disabled veterans who are
29 residents of Washington state.

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

33 (b) An applicant for a foster home pass must request a pass in
34 the manner required by the commission. Upon receipt of a properly
35 submitted request, the commission shall verify with the department of
36 social and health services that the applicant qualifies under (a) of
37 this subsection. Once issued, a foster home pass is valid for the
38 period, which may not be less than one year, designated by the
39 commission.

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

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

7 (i) "Out-of-home care" means placement in a foster-family home or
8 with a person related to the child under the authority of chapter
9 13.32A, 13.34, or 74.13 RCW;

10 (ii) "Foster-family home" has the same meaning as defined in RCW
11 74.15.020; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 (d) Fraudulent use of a pass;

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

35 (f) Refusing to display or show the pass to park employees when
36 requested; or

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

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

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

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

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