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HOUSE BILL 1384

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State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Shavers, Eslick, Doglio, Ramel, Gregerson, and Leavitt

Read first time 01/17/23. Referred to Committee on Innovation, Community & Economic Development, & Veterans.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing access to parks to all Washington  
2 veterans; and amending RCW 79A.05.065.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** 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~~) 50 percent reduction in the campsite  
10 rental fee prescribed by the commission; and (ii) entitle such a  
11 person to 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~~) 62 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

1 subsection (1)(b)(iii) apply regardless of whether the applicant for  
2 a senior citizen's pass owns taxable property or has obtained or  
3 applied for such property tax exemption.

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

9 (d) A holder of a senior citizen's pass shall surrender the pass  
10 upon request of a commission employee when the employee has reason to  
11 believe the holder fails to meet the criteria in (b) of this  
12 subsection. The holder shall have the pass returned upon providing  
13 proof to the satisfaction of the director that the holder meets the  
14 eligibility criteria for obtaining the senior citizen's pass.

15 (2)(a) Any resident of Washington who is disabled as defined by  
16 the social security administration and who receives social security  
17 benefits for that disability, or any other benefits for that  
18 disability from any other governmental or nongovernmental source, or  
19 who is entitled to benefits for permanent disability under RCW  
20 71A.10.020(~~((3))~~) (6) due to unemployability full time at the minimum  
21 wage, or who is legally blind or profoundly deaf, or who has been  
22 issued a card, decal, or special license plate for a permanent  
23 disability under RCW 46.19.010 shall be entitled to receive,  
24 regardless of age and upon making application therefor, a disability  
25 pass at no cost to the holder. The pass shall: (i) Entitle such a  
26 person, and members of his or her camping unit, to a (~~(fifty))~~ 50  
27 percent reduction in the campsite rental fee prescribed by the  
28 commission; and (ii) entitle such a person to free admission to any  
29 state park.

30 (b) A card, decal, or special license plate issued for a  
31 permanent disability under RCW 46.19.010 may serve as a pass for the  
32 holder to entitle that person and members of the person's camping  
33 unit to a (~~(fifty))~~ 50 percent reduction in the campsite rental fee  
34 prescribed by the commission, and to allow the holder free admission  
35 to state parks.

36 (3) Any resident of Washington who is a veteran (~~(and has a~~  
37 ~~service-connected disability of at least thirty percent)~~) shall be  
38 entitled to receive a lifetime veteran's (~~(disability)~~) pass at no  
39 cost to the holder. The pass shall: (a) Entitle such a person, and  
40 members of his or her camping unit, to free use of any campsite

1 within any state park; (b) entitle such a person to free admission to  
2 any state park; and (c) entitle such a person to an exemption from  
3 any reservation fees.

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

7 (b) An applicant for a foster home pass must request a pass in  
8 the manner required by the commission. Upon receipt of a properly  
9 submitted request, the commission shall verify with the department of  
10 social and health services that the applicant qualifies under (a) of  
11 this subsection. Once issued, a foster home pass is valid for the  
12 period, which may not be less than one year, designated by the  
13 commission.

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

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

20 (i) "Out-of-home care" means placement in a foster family home or  
21 with a person related to the child under the authority of chapter  
22 13.32A, 13.34, or 74.13 RCW;

23 (ii) "Foster family home" has the same meaning as defined in RCW  
24 74.15.020; and

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

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

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

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

39 (a) Residency outside the state of Washington;

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

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

5 (d) Fraudulent use of a pass;

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

8 (f) Refusing to display or show the pass to park employees when  
9 requested; or

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

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

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

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

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