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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5390**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Stanford and Nobles)

READ FIRST TIME 02/28/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to the discover pass and distributions; amending  
2 RCW 79A.80.020 and 79A.80.090; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that both visitors  
5 and residents of Washington state enjoy the opportunity to recreate  
6 and experience the beauty of state-owned public lands, like state  
7 parks. The legislature also finds that the costs to provide access to  
8 these lands has been successfully supported by user-based recreation  
9 fees and that the costs of continued support and access has outpaced  
10 the revenue generated by fees. The discover pass and day-use permits  
11 that are used to gain access to state-owned lands have been in place  
12 since 2011, and the cost for the discover pass and permits has not  
13 changed since then. However, the costs to maintain recreational  
14 access have steadily increased. The original legislation anticipated  
15 the potential need to consider adjustment in the cost of both the  
16 discover pass and day-use permits. The legislature intends to  
17 maintain recreational access for all by updating the cost of the  
18 discover pass commensurate with the inflationary costs to carry out  
19 state recreational programs.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 79A.80.020 and 2017 c 121 s 1 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a discover pass  
4 is required for any motor vehicle to:

5       (a) Park at any recreation site or lands; or

6       (b) Operate on any recreation site or lands.

7       (2) Except as provided in RCW 79A.80.110, the cost of a discover  
8 pass is (~~(thirty dollars)~~) \$45. Every four years the office of  
9 financial management must review the cost of the discover pass and,  
10 if necessary, recommend to the legislature an adjustment to the cost  
11 of the discover pass to account for inflation.

12       (3) A discover pass is valid for one year beginning from the date  
13 that the discover pass is marked for activation. The activation date  
14 may differ from the purchase date pursuant to any policies developed  
15 by the agencies.

16       (4) Sales of discover passes must be consistent with RCW  
17 79A.80.100.

18       (5) The discover pass must contain space for two motor vehicle  
19 license plate numbers. A discover pass is valid only for those  
20 vehicle license plate numbers written on the pass. However, the  
21 agencies may offer for sale a family discover pass that is fully  
22 transferable among vehicles and does not require the placement of a  
23 license plate number on the pass to be valid. The agencies must  
24 collectively set a price for the sale of a family discover pass that  
25 is no more than (~~(fifty dollars)~~) \$50. A discover pass is valid only  
26 for use with one motor vehicle at any one time.

27       (6)(a) One complimentary discover pass must be provided to a  
28 volunteer who performed (~~(twenty-four)~~) 24 hours of service on  
29 agency-sanctioned volunteer projects in a year. The agency must  
30 provide vouchers to volunteers identifying the number of volunteer  
31 hours they have provided for each project. The vouchers may be  
32 brought to an agency to be redeemed for a discover pass.

33       (b) Married spouses under chapter 26.04 RCW may present an agency  
34 with combined vouchers demonstrating the collective performance of  
35 (~~(twenty-four)~~) 24 hours of service on agency-sanctioned volunteer  
36 projects in a year to be redeemed for a single complimentary discover  
37 pass.

38       **Sec. 3.** RCW 79A.80.090 and 2020 c 148 s 27 are each amended to  
39 read as follows:

1 (1) The recreation access pass account is created in the state  
2 treasury. All moneys received from the sale of discover passes and  
3 day-use permits must be deposited into the account.

4 (2) Each fiscal biennium, the first (~~seventy-one million~~  
5 ~~dollars~~) \$100,000,000 in revenue must be distributed to the agencies  
6 in the following manner:

7 (a) Eight percent to the department of fish and wildlife and  
8 deposited into the limited fish and wildlife account created in RCW  
9 77.12.170(1);

10 (b) Eight percent to the department of natural resources and  
11 deposited into the parkland trust revolving fund created in RCW  
12 43.30.385;

13 (c) Eighty-four percent to the state parks and recreation  
14 commission and deposited into the state parks renewal and stewardship  
15 account created in RCW 79A.05.215;

16 (d) During the 2015-2017 fiscal biennium, expenditures from the  
17 recreation access pass account may be used for Skamania county court  
18 costs. During the 2015-2017 and 2017-2019 fiscal biennia,  
19 expenditures from the recreation access pass account may be used for  
20 the state parks and recreation commission, in partnership with the  
21 departments of fish and wildlife and natural resources, to develop  
22 options and recommendations to improve recreational access fee  
23 systems.

24 (3) Each fiscal biennium, revenues in excess of (~~seventy-one~~  
25 ~~million dollars~~) \$100,000,000 must be distributed equally among the  
26 agencies to the accounts identified in subsection (2) of this  
27 section.

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