
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1247

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By House Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs (originally sponsored by Representatives McCabe, Kilduff, Muri, Caldier, Wylie, Dent, Tarleton, Haler, Stanford, Appleton, McBride, and Young)

READ FIRST TIME 02/14/17.

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

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes:

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

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

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

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

1 (3) Therefore, the legislature intends to extend eligibility for
2 Washington's existing lifetime veteran's disability pass to disabled
3 veterans who are residents of Oregon, both in order to recognize the
4 service of those individuals and to encourage disabled veterans who
5 live in Oregon to recreate in our state.

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

8 (1)(a) The commission shall grant to any person who meets the
9 eligibility requirements specified in this section a senior citizen's
10 pass which shall: (i) Entitle such a person, and members of his or
11 her camping unit, to a fifty percent reduction in the campsite rental
12 fee prescribed by the commission; and (ii) entitle such a person to
13 free admission to any state park.

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

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

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

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

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

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

38 (2)(a) Any resident of Washington who is disabled as defined by
39 the social security administration and who receives social security

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

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

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

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

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

35 (b) An applicant for a foster home pass must request a pass in
36 the manner required by the commission. Upon receipt of a properly
37 submitted request, the commission shall verify with the department of
38 social and health services that the applicant qualifies under (a) of
39 this subsection. Once issued, a foster home pass is valid for the

1 period, which may not be less than one year, designated by the
2 commission.

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

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

9 (i) "Out-of-home care" means placement in a foster-family home or
10 with a person related to the child under the authority of chapter
11 13.32A, 13.34, or 74.13 RCW;

12 (ii) "Foster-family home" has the same meaning as defined in RCW
13 74.15.020; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 (d) Fraudulent use of a pass;

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

37 (f) Refusing to display or show the pass to park employees when
38 requested; or

39 (g) Failing to provide current eligibility information upon
40 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.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires June 30, 2019.

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