
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5390

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 access to a recreation site or lands; amending
2 RCW 79A.80.020, 79A.80.090, 79A.80.080, and 79A.05.065; and creating
3 a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that both visitors
6 and residents of Washington state enjoy the opportunity to recreate
7 and experience the beauty of state-owned public lands, like state
8 parks. The legislature also finds that the costs to provide access to
9 these lands has been successfully supported by user-based recreation
10 fees and that the costs of continued support and access has outpaced
11 the revenue generated by fees. The discover pass and day-use permits
12 that are used to gain access to state-owned lands have been in place
13 since 2011, and the cost for the discover pass and permits has not
14 changed since then. However, the costs to maintain recreational
15 access have steadily increased. The original legislation anticipated
16 the potential need to consider adjustment in the cost of both the
17 discover pass and day-use permits. The legislature intends to
18 maintain recreational access for all by updating the cost of the
19 discover pass commensurate with the inflationary costs to carry out
20 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))~~ (a) Until June 30, 2026, the discover pass must
19 contain space for two motor vehicle license plate numbers.

20 (b) Beginning July 1, 2026, the discover pass must contain space
21 for three motor vehicle license plate numbers.

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

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

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

1 (7) A lifetime disabled veteran pass issued under RCW
2 79A.05.065(3) is the equivalent of a discover pass for purposes of
3 this chapter, as long as the person to whom the pass was issued is a
4 driver or passenger in the vehicle when accessing a site or lands.

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

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

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

13 (a) Eight percent to the department of fish and wildlife and
14 deposited into the limited fish and wildlife account created in RCW
15 77.12.170(1);

16 (b) Eight percent to the department of natural resources and
17 deposited into the parkland trust revolving fund created in RCW
18 43.30.385;

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

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

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

34 **Sec. 4.** RCW 79A.80.080 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 15 s 3 are each
35 amended to read as follows:

36 (1) A discover pass, vehicle access pass, lifetime disabled
37 veteran pass, or day-use permit must be visibly displayed in the

1 front windshield, or otherwise in a prominent location for motor
2 vehicles without a windshield, of any motor vehicle:

3 (a) Operating on any recreation site or lands; or

4 (b) Parking at any recreation site or lands.

5 (2) The discover pass, the vehicle access pass, lifetime disabled
6 veteran pass, or the day-use permit is not required:

7 (a) On private lands, state-owned aquatic lands other than water
8 access areas, or at agency offices, hatcheries, or other facilities
9 where public business is conducted;

10 (b) For persons who use, possess, or enter lands owned or managed
11 by the agencies for nonrecreational purposes consistent with a
12 written authorization from the agency, including but not limited to
13 leases, contracts, and easements;

14 (c) On department of fish and wildlife lands only, for persons
15 possessing a current vehicle access pass pursuant to RCW 79A.80.040;
16 ((~~or~~))

17 (d) When operating on a road managed by the department of natural
18 resources or the department of fish and wildlife, including a forest
19 or land management road, that is not blocked by a gate; or

20 (e) For motor vehicles used for off-road recreation that have
21 been transported to a recreation site or lands managed for off-road
22 recreation by another motor vehicle that: (i) Remains parked at the
23 recreation site or lands; and (ii) displays a pass or permit
24 consistent with the requirements of this chapter.

25 (3) (a) An agency may waive the requirements of this section for
26 any person who has secured the ability to access specific
27 recreational land through the provision of monetary consideration to
28 the agency or for any person attending an event or function that
29 required the provision of monetary compensation to the agency.

30 (b) Special events and group activities are core recreational
31 activities and major public service opportunities within state parks.
32 When waiving the requirements of this section for special events, the
33 state parks and recreation commission must consider the direct and
34 indirect costs and benefits to the state, local market rental rates,
35 the public service functions of the event sponsor, and other public
36 interest factors when setting appropriate fees for each event or
37 activity.

38 (4) Failure to comply with subsection (1) of this section is a
39 natural resource infraction under chapter 7.84 RCW. An agency is
40 authorized to issue a notice of infraction to any person who fails to

1 comply with subsection (1)(a) of this section or to any motor vehicle
2 that fails to comply with subsection (1)(b) of this section.

3 (5) The penalty for failure to comply with the requirements of
4 this section is (~~((ninety-nine dollars))~~) \$99. This penalty must be
5 reduced to (~~((fifty-nine dollars))~~) \$59 if an individual provides,
6 within 15 days after the issuance of the notice of violation, proof
7 of purchase of a discover pass to the court (~~((within fifteen days~~
8 ~~after the issuance of the notice of violation))~~) or evidence that the
9 individual has obtained a lifetime disabled veteran pass under RCW
10 79A.05.065(3).

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

13 (1)(a) The commission shall grant to any person who meets the
14 eligibility requirements specified in this section a senior citizen's
15 pass which shall: (i) Entitle such a person, and members of his or
16 her camping unit, to a (~~((fifty))~~) 50 percent reduction in the campsite
17 rental fee prescribed by the commission; and (ii) entitle such a
18 person to free admission to any state park.

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

22 (i) The person is at least (~~((sixty-two))~~) 62 years of age;

23 (ii) The person is a domiciliary of the state of Washington and
24 meets reasonable residency requirements prescribed by the commission;
25 and

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

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

37 (d) A holder of a senior citizen's pass shall surrender the pass
38 upon request of a commission employee when the employee has reason to
39 believe the holder fails to meet the criteria in (b) of this

1 subsection. The holder shall have the pass returned upon providing
2 proof to the satisfaction of the director that the holder meets the
3 eligibility criteria for obtaining the senior citizen's pass.

4 (2) (a) Any resident of Washington who is disabled as defined by
5 the social security administration and who receives social security
6 benefits for that disability, or any other benefits for that
7 disability from any other governmental or nongovernmental source, or
8 who is entitled to benefits for permanent disability under RCW
9 71A.10.020(~~((3))~~) (6) due to unemployability full time at the minimum
10 wage, or who is legally blind or profoundly deaf, or who has been
11 issued a card, decal, or special license plate for a permanent
12 disability under RCW 46.19.010 shall be entitled to receive,
13 regardless of age and upon making application therefor, a disability
14 pass at no cost to the holder. The pass shall: (i) Entitle such a
15 person, and members of his or her camping unit, to a (~~(fifty)~~) 50
16 percent reduction in the campsite rental fee prescribed by the
17 commission; and (ii) entitle such a person to free admission to any
18 state park.

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

25 (3) Any resident of Washington who is a veteran and has a
26 service-connected disability of at least (~~(thirty)~~) 30 percent shall
27 be entitled to receive a lifetime (~~(veteran's disability)~~) disabled
28 veteran pass at no cost to the holder. The pass shall: (a) Entitle
29 such a person, and members of his or her camping unit, to free use of
30 any campsite within any state park; and (b) entitle such a person to
31 free admission to any state (~~(park; and (c) entitle such a person to~~
32 ~~an exemption from any reservation fees)) recreation site or lands, as
33 defined in RCW 79A.80.010. A lifetime disabled veteran pass entitles
34 the holder to all of the benefits of a discover pass under chapter
35 79A.80 RCW.~~

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

39 (b) An applicant for a foster home pass must request a pass in
40 the manner required by the commission. Upon receipt of a properly

1 submitted request, the commission shall verify with the department of
2 social and health services that the applicant qualifies under (a) of
3 this subsection. Once issued, a foster home pass is valid for the
4 period, which may not be less than one year, designated by the
5 commission.

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

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

12 (i) "Out-of-home care" means placement in a foster family home or
13 with a person related to the child under the authority of chapter
14 13.32A, 13.34, or 74.13 RCW;

15 (ii) "Foster family home" has the same meaning as defined in RCW
16 74.15.020; and

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

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

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

28 (7) The commission may deny or revoke any Washington state park
29 pass issued under this section at any time for cause, including but
30 not limited to the following:

31 (a) Residency outside the state of Washington;

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

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

36 (d) Fraudulent use of a pass;

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

39 (f) Refusing to display or show the pass to park employees when
40 requested; or

1 (g) Failing to provide current eligibility information upon
2 request by the agency or when eligibility ceases or changes.
3 (8) This section shall not affect or otherwise impair the power
4 of the commission to continue or discontinue any other programs it
5 has adopted for senior citizens.
6 (9) The commission may engage in a mutually agreed upon
7 reciprocal or discounted program for all or specific pass programs
8 with other outdoor recreation agencies.
9 (10) The commission shall adopt those rules as it finds
10 appropriate for the administration of this section. Among other
11 things, the rules shall prescribe a definition of "camping unit"
12 which will authorize a reasonable number of persons traveling with
13 the person having a pass to stay at the campsite rented by such a
14 person, a minimum Washington residency requirement for applicants for
15 a senior citizen's pass, and an application form to be completed by
16 applicants for a senior citizen's pass.

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