

# ASSEMBLY, No. 834

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman R. BRUCE LAND**

**District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)**

**Assemblyman BOB ANDRZEJCZAK**

**District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)**

**Assemblyman ANTHONY M. BUCCO**

**District 25 (Morris and Somerset)**

**Assemblyman MATTHEW W. MILAM**

**District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Provides free admission to State parks, forests, and beaches for certain veterans and military personnel.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/14/2019)**

1 AN ACT concerning free admission to State parks, forests, and  
2 beaches for certain veterans and military personnel, and  
3 amending P.L.1983, c.324 and P.L.2007, c.275.  
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:  
7

8 1. Section 12 of P.L.1983, c.324 (C.13:1L-12) is amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 12. a. The department shall not charge an admission fee for  
11 entrance into a State park or forest or a State-owned beach by:

12 (1) any resident of the State [of] who:

13 (a) is 62 or more years of age [or who] ;

14 (b) is totally disabled [or who] ;

15 (c) is an active member of the New Jersey National Guard who  
16 has completed Initial Active Duty Training; or

17 (d) is a veteran; or

18 (2) any person who is in active military service in any of the  
19 Armed Forces of the United States, or reserves component thereof,  
20 and

21 (a) is a resident of the State; or

22 (b) is not a resident of the State but is stationed in New Jersey.

23 b. The department shall prescribe by regulation the types of  
24 evidence that may be used to qualify persons for the benefits of this  
25 **[subsection] section.**

26 c. As used in this section **[,]** :

27 "Initial Active Duty Training" means Basic Military Training,  
28 for members of the New Jersey Air National Guard, and Basic  
29 Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training, for members  
30 of the New Jersey Army National Guard; and

31 "Veteran" means any resident of the State who has been  
32 honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances  
33 from active military service in any of the Armed Forces of the  
34 United States, or reserves component thereof, or any honorably  
35 discharged member of the American Merchant Marine who served  
36 during World War II and is declared by the United States  
37 Department of Defense to be eligible for federal veterans' benefits.

38 (cf: P.L.1993, c.304, s.1)  
39

40 2. Section 1 of P.L.2007, c.275 (C.13:1L-12.1) is amended to  
41 read as follows:

42 1. a. The **[**department shall not charge an admission fee for  
43 entrance into a State park or forest by any veteran during an event  
44 held by a veterans' organization. In addition, **]** department shall

**EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

1 not charge a facilities fee of any kind to any veterans' organization  
2 using a State park or forest for an event.

3 b. As used in this section [

4 "Veteran" means any resident of the State who has been  
5 honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances  
6 from active service in any branch of the armed forces of the United  
7 States, or any honorably discharged member of the American  
8 Merchant Marine who served during World War II and is declared  
9 by the United States Department of Defense to be eligible for  
10 federal veterans' benefits; and

11 "Veterans' ], "veterans' organization" means the American  
12 Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, or other veterans' organizations  
13 chartered under federal law, or any service foundation of such an  
14 organization recognized in its bylaws.

15 (cf: P.L.2007, c.275, s.1)

16

17 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

21

22 This bill would amend current law to provide free admission to  
23 State parks, forests, and beaches for certain veterans and military  
24 personnel.

25 Specifically, the bill would provide free admission to veterans  
26 who are residents of the State, and to any person who is in active  
27 military service in any of the Armed Forces of the United States,  
28 including the reserves, who is a State resident or stationed in New  
29 Jersey, regardless of their residency status. Current law already  
30 provides free admission to State residents who are active members  
31 of the National Guard, totally disabled, or 62 or more years of age.