

ASSEMBLY, No. 326

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RYAN E. PETERS

District 8 (Atlantic, Burlington and Camden)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Space, Wirths, Thomson and Karabinchak

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.



A326 PETERS

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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)
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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, the**]** 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 (2) The department shall not charge an admission fee or
4 facilities fee of any kind for entrance into a State park or forest by
5 a person holding a driver's license or identification card with a
6 Gold Star Family designation issued pursuant to section 1 of
7 P.L.2013, c.165 (C.39:3-10f6) or section 2 of P.L.1980, c.47
8 (C.39:3-29.3), respectively.

9 b. As used in this section **["**:

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

17 "Veterans' **"]**, "veterans' organization" means the American
18 Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, or other veterans' organizations
19 chartered under federal law, or any service foundation of such an
20 organization recognized in its bylaws.

21 (cf: P.L.2017, c.175, s.3)

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23 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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28 This bill would amend current law to provide free admission to
29 State parks, forests, and beaches for certain veterans and military
30 personnel.

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