

ASSEMBLY, No. 4636

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman JOHN ARMATO

District 2 (Atlantic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Simonsen, McClellan and Assemblywoman Dunn

SYNOPSIS

Provides free admission to State parks and forests, and certain historic sites and historic properties for certain veterans on Veterans Day.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/21/2020)

1 **AN ACT** concerning free admission to State parks and forests and
 2 certain historic sites and historic properties in the State for
 3 certain veterans on Veterans Day, amending P.L.2007, c.275,
 4 and supplementing P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.) and Title
 5 40 of the Revised Statutes.

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

9
 10 1. Section 1 of P.L.2007, c.275 (C.13:1L-12.1) is amended to
 11 read as follows:

12 1. a. (1) The department shall not charge an admission fee
 13 for entrance into a State park or forest by any veteran during an
 14 event held by a veterans' organization. In addition, the department
 15 shall not charge a facilities fee of any kind to any veterans'
 16 organization using a State park or forest for an event.

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

23 (3) The department shall not charge an admission fee for
 24 entrance into a State park or forest by any veteran on November 11
 25 or any other date that the State may designate for the celebration of
 26 Veterans Day.

27 b. As used in this section:

28 "Veteran" means any resident of the State now or hereafter who
 29 has been discharged honorably or under general honorable
 30 conditions in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States,
 31 or a Reserve component thereof, or the National Guard of this State
 32 or another state as defined in section 1 of P.L.1963, c.109
 33 (C.38A:1-1), or any honorably discharged member of the American
 34 Merchant Marine who served during World War II and is declared
 35 by the United States Department of Defense to be eligible for
 36 federal veterans' benefits; and

37 "Veterans' organization" means the American Legion, Veterans
 38 of Foreign Wars, or other veterans' organizations chartered under
 39 federal law, or any service foundation of such an organization
 40 recognized in its bylaws.

41 (cf: P.L.2019, c.500, s.1)

42
 43 2. (New section) a. Notwithstanding any provision of Title 13
 44 of the Revised Statutes, or any rules and regulations adopted
 45 pursuant thereto, to the contrary, a local government unit or
 46 qualifying tax exempt nonprofit organization shall not charge a

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 veteran an admission fee to any historic property for which an
2 admission fee is normally charged and was acquired or preserved
3 for historic preservation purposes using constitutionally dedicated
4 moneys in whole or in part, Green Acres bond act moneys in whole
5 or in part, or constitutionally dedicated CBT moneys pursuant to
6 P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.) in whole or in part, on
7 November 11 or on any other date that the State may designate for
8 the celebration of Veterans Day. The veteran may be required to
9 provide proof of service and honorable discharge.

10 b. As used in this section, "veteran" means any resident of the
11 State now or hereafter who has been discharged honorably or under
12 general honorable conditions in any branch of the Armed Forces of
13 the United States, or a Reserve component thereof, or the National
14 Guard of this State or another state as defined in section 1 of
15 P.L.1963, c.109 (C.38A:1-1), or any honorably discharged member
16 of the American Merchant Marine who served during World War II
17 and is declared by the United States Department of Defense to be
18 eligible for federal veterans' benefits.

19
20 3. (New section) a. Notwithstanding any provision of Title
21 13 of the Revised Statutes, or any rules and regulations adopted
22 pursuant thereto, to the contrary, a historic site owned or operated
23 by a county or municipality shall not charge a veteran an admission
24 fee to the historic site on November 11 or on any other date that the
25 State may designate for the celebration of Veterans Day.

26 b. As used in this section:

27 "Historic site" means any real property, man-made structure,
28 natural object or configuration or any portion or group of the
29 foregoing of historical, archeological, cultural, scenic or
30 architectural significance.

31 "Veteran" means any resident of the State now or hereafter who
32 has been discharged honorably or under general honorable
33 conditions in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States,
34 or a Reserve component thereof, or the National Guard of this State
35 or another state as defined in section 1 of P.L.1963, c.109
36 (C.38A:1-1), or any honorably discharged member of the American
37 Merchant Marine who served during World War II and is declared
38 by the United States Department of Defense to be eligible for
39 federal veterans' benefits.

40
41 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

42 STATEMENT

43
44
45 This bill provides free admission for veterans on November 11 or
46 any other date that the State may designate for the celebration of
47 Veterans Day to:

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1 1) State parks and forests, which also includes State owned or
2 leased historic sites;

3 2) historic properties acquired or preserved by a local
4 government unit or qualifying tax exempt nonprofit organization by
5 using State funding; and

6 3) any historic site owned or operated by a county or a
7 municipality.

8 The bill defines “veteran” as any resident of the State who has
9 been honorably discharged or released under honorable
10 circumstances from active military service in any of the Armed
11 Forces of the United States, or reserves component thereof, or any
12 honorably discharged member of the American Merchant Marine
13 who served during World War II and is declared by the United
14 States Department of Defense to be eligible for federal veterans'
15 benefits.