

SENATE, No. 453

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator MICHAEL J. DOHERTY

District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)

Senator TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Bateman

SYNOPSIS

Exempts disabled veterans from certain fees at State parks and forests.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning State park and forest fees and amending
2 P.L.1983, c.324.

3

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

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

9 12. a. The department shall not charge an admission fee for
10 entrance into a State park or forest by any resident of the State **[of]**
11 who is:

12 (1) 62 or more years of age **[or who is]** ;

13 (2) totally disabled **[or who is]** ;

14 (3) a disabled veteran; or

15 (4) an active member of the New Jersey National Guard who has
16 completed Initial Active Duty Training.

17 The department shall prescribe by regulation the types of
18 evidence that may be used to qualify persons for the benefits of this
19 subsection.

20 b. In addition to an admission fee for entrance into a State park,
21 the department shall not charge a disabled veteran a fee to access a
22 State park beach by motor vehicle in order to fish thereat, including
23 any fee for a mobile sportfishing vehicle permit.

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

25 "Disabled veteran" means any resident of the State who has been
26 honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances
27 from active service in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United
28 States and who has been declared by the United States Department
29 of Veterans Affairs, or its successor, to have a service-connected
30 disability of any degree; and

31 "Initial Active Duty Training" means Basic Military Training,
32 for members of the New Jersey Air National Guard, and Basic
33 Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training, for members
34 of the New Jersey Army National Guard.

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

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37 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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42 This bill would provide free admission to State parks and forests
43 to disabled veterans residing in New Jersey who have been
44 honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances
45 from active service in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United

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 States and who have been declared by the United States Department
2 of Veterans Affairs, or its successor, to have a service-connected
3 disability of any degree. This bill would also exempt such disabled
4 veterans from any fees for accessing State park beaches by motor
5 vehicle in order to fish there, including fees for mobile sportfishing
6 vehicle permits. State law currently only provides free admission to
7 State parks and forests to New Jersey residents who are 62 or more
8 years of age, totally disabled, or active members of the New Jersey
9 National Guard who have completed Initial Active Duty Training,
10 and current law does not specifically exempt disabled veterans from
11 fees for motor vehicle access to State park beaches to fish. This bill
12 would extend free State park and forest admission, as well as
13 provide free motor vehicle access to State park beaches to fish, to
14 all veterans who have incurred a service-connected disability,
15 regardless of the degree of disability.