

SENATE, No. 2910

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Senator CHRIS A. BROWN

District 2 (Atlantic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators A.M.Bucco, Cruz-Perez and Connors

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: 11/12/2020)

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
44 13 of the Revised Statutes, or any rules and regulations adopted
45 pursuant thereto, to the contrary, a local government unit or

**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 qualifying tax exempt nonprofit organization shall not charge a
2 veteran an admission fee to any historic property for which an
3 admission fee is normally charged and was acquired or preserved
4 for historic preservation purposes using constitutionally dedicated
5 moneys in whole or in part, Green Acres bond act moneys in whole
6 or in part, or constitutionally dedicated CBT moneys pursuant to
7 P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.) in whole or in part, on
8 November 11 or on any other date that the State may designate for
9 the celebration of Veterans Day. The veteran may be required to
10 provide proof of service and honorable discharge.

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

20

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

27 b. As used in this section:

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

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

41

42 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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44 STATEMENT

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

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.