

SENATE, No. 3679

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 26, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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 **【b.】** c. The department shall not charge a disabled veteran a fee
 27 to obtain, replace, or renew a permit to operate a motorized vehicle
 28 on a State park beach.

29 **【c.】** d. As used in this section:

30 "Disabled veteran" means any resident of the State who has been
 31 honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances
 32 from active service in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United
 33 States and who has been declared by the United States Department
 34 of Veterans Affairs, or its successor, to have a service-connected
 35 disability of any degree.

36 "Initial Active Duty Training" means Basic Military Training,
 37 for members of the New Jersey Air National Guard, and Basic
 38 Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training, for members
 39 of the New Jersey Army National Guard.

40 "Veteran" means any resident of the State now or hereafter who
 41 has been discharged honorably or under general honorable
 42 conditions in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States,
 43 or a Reserve component thereof, or the National Guard of this State
 44 or another state as defined in N.J.S.38A:1-1, or any honorably
 45 discharged member of the American Merchant Marine who served

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 during World War II and is declared by the United States
2 Department of Defense to be eligible for federal veterans' benefits.
3 (cf: P.L.2019, c.398, s.2)
4

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

7 1. a. (1) The department [shall not charge an admission fee for
8 entrance into a State park or forest by any veteran during an event
9 held by a veterans' organization. In addition, the department] shall
10 not charge a facilities fee of any kind to any veterans' organization
11 using a State park or forest for an event.

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

18 b. As used in this section [:

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

28 "Veterans" ["veterans' organization" means the American
29 Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, or other veterans' organizations
30 chartered under federal law, or any service foundation of such an
31 organization recognized in its bylaws.
32 (cf: P.L.2019, c.500, s.1)
33

34 3. This act shall take effect immediately.
35
36

37 STATEMENT

38
39 This bill would amend current law to provide free admission to
40 State parks, forests, and beaches for certain veterans and military
41 personnel.

42 Specifically, the bill would provide free admission to veterans
43 who are residents of the State, and to any person who is in active
44 military service in any of the Armed Forces of the United States,
45 including the reserves, who is a State resident or stationed in New
46 Jersey, regardless of their residency status. Current law already
47 provides free admission to State residents who are active members
48 of the National Guard, totally disabled, or 62 or more years of age.