



2023-2024 General Assembly

SENATE BILL 607: Regulatory Reform Act of 2024, Sec. 15: Exemption From State Park Fees for Eligible Disabled Veterans

Committee:
Introduced by:
Analysis of: Sec. 15 of S.L. 2024-45

Date: August 19, 2024
Prepared by: Aaron McGlothlin
Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: Section 15 of S.L. 2024-45 allows disabled veterans of any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States to apply for and receive any pass from the North Carolina State Parks Annual Pass Program for no fee.

This section became effective July 9, 2024.

CURRENT LAW / BILL ANALYSIS:

The North Carolina State Parks Annual Pass Program (Annual Pass Program) allows visitors to utilize equipment rentals, swimming, and more throughout the calendar year for a discounted package rate. The Annual Pass Program offers Seasonal Access Passes, Annual Passes, and Four-Wheel-Drive Beach Access Annual Passes. The Seasonal Access Pass allows unlimited admission of one vehicle at boat ramps and day-use areas at Falls Lake, Jordan Lake, and Kerr Lake State Recreation Areas. The Annual Pass Program covers admission fees at Falls Lake, Jordan Lake, and Kerr Lake, plus boat rentals and swim passes for up to six people at numerous State parks, boat launches at Carolina Beach and Hammocks Beach State parks, and ferry tickets for six people at Hammocks Beach State Park. The Four-Wheel-Drive Beach Access Annual Pass offers the same benefits as the Annual Pass, plus access to the four-wheel-drive beach at Fort Fisher State Recreation Area. Without a Four-Wheel-Drive Beach Access Annual pass, a day pass costs \$20 per day on weekdays and \$30 per day on weekends.

Section 15 allows a disabled veteran of any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States to apply for a pass from the Annual Pass Program in a form prescribed by the Division of Parks and Recreation (Division) of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) and receive any pass included within the Annual Pass Program for no fee. A disabled veteran will have to provide to the Division a copy of the veteran's disability certification from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or evidence of benefits received under 38 U.S.C. § 2101.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This section became effective July 9, 2024.

Chris Saunders, a staff attorney with the Legislative Analysis Division, substantially contributed to this summary.

Kara McCraw
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578