

By: Leach

H.B. No. 1341

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to waivers for entrance fees to state parks for resident first responders, military service members, and veterans.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 13.015, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a-2) and adding Subsection (a-3) to read as follows:

(a-2) The department shall waive the park entrance fee for a resident of this state who is a first responder. In this subsection, "first responder" means a person who is:

(1) a firefighter certified by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection or by the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas;

(2) an individual certified as emergency medical services personnel by the Department of State Health Services;

(3) a municipal police officer;

(4) a sheriff, deputy sheriff, or reserve deputy sheriff; or

(5) a constable, deputy constable, or reserve deputy constable.

(a-3) The department may promote visits and enhance revenue at parks, including amounts necessary for salaries, advertising, consumable supplies and materials, promotional products, fees, and related expenses.

1 SECTION 2. Section 13.018(a), Parks and Wildlife Code, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 (a) The following people may apply to the department for a
4 state parklands passport:

5 (1) a resident of this state who is 65 years old or
6 over who has resided in the state for six consecutive months
7 preceding the date of application for a parklands passport [~~a~~
8 ~~member of the United States armed forces on active duty who is 65~~
9 ~~years old or over,~~] or any other individual in a category that the
10 commission by rule designates as a resident of this state who is 65
11 years old or over;

12 (2) an active duty member or [a] veteran of the armed
13 services of the United States, the Texas Army National Guard, the
14 Texas Air National Guard, or the Texas State Guard [~~who, as a result~~
15 ~~of military service, has a service-connected disability, as defined~~
16 ~~by the Veterans' Administration, consisting of the loss of the use~~
17 ~~of a lower extremity or of a 60 percent disability rating and who is~~
18 ~~receiving compensation from the United States because of the~~
19 ~~disability~~]; and

20 (3) an individual who has a physical or mental
21 impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life
22 activities of the individual.

23 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.