

By: Torres

H.B. No. 3153

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

Relating to the free admission to state parks for the parents of deceased members of the armed services

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

SECTION 1. Amend Chapter 13.018, Parks and Wildlife Code, as follows:

Sec. 13.018. STATE PARKLANDS PASSPORT. (a) The following people may apply to the department for a state parklands passport:

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

(2) a veteran of the armed services of the United States who, as a result of military service, has a service-connected disability, as defined by the Veterans' Administration, consisting of the loss of the use of a lower extremity or of a 60 percent disability rating and who is receiving compensation from the United States because of the disability; ~~and~~

(3) an individual who has a physical or mental impairment activities of the individual; and

(4) parents of deceased members of the United States

1 Armed Forces, who have fallen in combat.

2 (b) The department shall issue a passport to each qualified
3 applicant. The passport shall be issued on a form designed and
4 provided by the department.

5 (c) The holder of a state parklands passport issued on or
6 before August 31, 1995, a person whose birth date is before
7 September 1, 1930, or a veteran described by Subsection (a)(2) is
8 entitled to enter any state park without payment of an entrance or
9 admission fee. When a fee is charged by the department for entrance
10 of a vehicle into a state park, the vehicle of the holder of a state
11 parklands passport is exempt from the fee when the holder is
12 present.

13 (d) The department may discount or waive a park entrance fee
14 for a resident of this state issued an initial state parklands
15 passport after August 31, 1995. When a fee is charged by the
16 department for entrance of a vehicle into a state park, the vehicle
17 of the holder of an initial state parklands passport may enter any
18 state park on payment of a lower vehicle entrance fee. The
19 department may waive vehicle entrance fees for any state park for
20 the holder of an initial state parklands passport.

21 (e) The commission by rule shall establish eligibility
22 requirements and privileges available to the holder of a state
23 parklands passport described by Subsection (a)(3).

24 (f) The department shall waive a park entrance fee and any
25 vehicle admission fee for the holder of state parklands passport
26 described by subsection (a)(4).

27 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

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1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.