

By: Metcalf

H.B. No. 1565

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a waiver of certain state park fees for military service members and veterans.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 13.018(a) and (c), Parks and Wildlife Code, are amended to read as follows:

(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 or an active duty member of:

(A) the armed services of the United States;

(B) the Texas Army National Guard;

(C) the Texas Air National Guard; or

(D) the Texas State Guard ~~[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~~

1 ~~disability~~]; and

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

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 or active duty member of the armed
8 services described by Subsection (a)(2) is entitled to enter any
9 state park without payment of an entrance or admission fee. When a
10 fee is charged by the department for entrance of a vehicle into a
11 state park, the vehicle of the holder of a state parklands passport
12 is exempt from the fee when the holder is present.

13 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.