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By:  Meyer H.B. No. 1561

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a waiver of certain state park fees for fifth grade students.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 13.018, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (c) and adding Subsection (f) 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 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 that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of the individual; and

(4)  a resident of this state who is:

(A)  a student enrolled in the fifth grade of a public or private school; or

(B)  a home-schooled student who is 11 years of age.

(c)  The holder of a state parklands passport issued on or before August 31, 1995, a person whose birth date is before September 1, 1930, [~~or~~] a veteran described by Subsection (a)(2), or a student described by Subsection (a)(4) is entitled to enter any state park without payment of an entrance or admission fee. When a fee is charged by the department for entrance of a vehicle into a state park, the vehicle of the holder of a state parklands passport is exempt from the fee when the holder is present.

(f)  In this section, "home-schooled student" has the meaning assigned by Section 29.916, Education Code.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.