88R10367 MP-D

By:  Martinez H.B. No. 5063

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the issuance of state parklands passports to and a waiver of certain entrance or admission fees to state parks and state historical sites for certain family members of a person who died while serving in the United States armed forces.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter A, Chapter 442, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 442.00515 to read as follows:

Sec. 442.00515.  FEE WAIVER. (a) The executive director shall waive the entrance fee for a historic site under the commission's jurisdiction for an individual who is eligible to receive a gold star lapel button pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Section 1126.

(b)  The commission shall adopt rules necessary to implement a fee waiver under this section.

SECTION 2.  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 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)  an individual who is eligible to receive a gold star lapel button pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Section 1126.

(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 person [~~veteran~~] described by Subsection (a)(2) or (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.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.