

By: Martinez

H.B. No. 5063

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the issuance of state parklands passports to and a
3 waiver of certain entrance or admission fees to state parks and
4 state historical sites for certain family members of a person who
5 died while serving in the United States armed forces.

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

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

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

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

15 SECTION 2. Sections 13.018(a) and (c), Parks and Wildlife
16 Code, are amended to read as follows:

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

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

1 years old or over;

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

9 (3) an individual who has a physical or mental
10 impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life
11 activities of the individual; and

12 (4) an individual who is eligible to receive a gold
13 star lapel button pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Section 1126.

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

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