

By: Blanco

S.B. No. 615

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the issuance of state parklands passports to and a  
3 waiver of certain state park fees for veterans and certain family  
4 members of a person who died while serving in the United States  
5 armed forces.

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

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

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

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

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

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

4           (4) a surviving spouse, parent, child, or sibling of a  
5 person who died while serving in the United States armed forces.

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

14           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.