

By: Hancock

S.B. No. 777

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, active duty armed  
4 forces members, and certain family members of a person who died  
5 while serving in the United States armed forces.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 13.018, Parks and Wildlife Code, is  
8 amended by amending Subsections (a), (c), and (e) and adding  
9 Subsection (f) to read as follows:

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

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

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

1 ~~and~~

2 (3) a member of the United States armed services on  
3 active duty;

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

6 (5) an individual who has a physical or mental  
7 impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life  
8 activities of the individual.

9 (c) The holder of a state parklands passport issued on or  
10 before August 31, 1995, a person whose birth date is before  
11 September 1, 1930, or a person ~~[veteran]~~ described by Subsection  
12 (a)(2), (3), or (4) is entitled to enter any state park without  
13 payment of an entrance or admission fee. When a fee is charged by  
14 the department for entrance of a vehicle into a state park, the  
15 vehicle of the holder of a state parklands passport is exempt from  
16 the fee when the holder is present.

17 (e) A state parklands passport issued to a person described  
18 by Subsection (a)(3) is valid for one year from the date of issuance  
19 and may be renewed in the manner prescribed by commission rule.

20 (f) The commission by rule shall establish eligibility  
21 requirements and privileges available to the holder of a state  
22 parklands passport described by Subsection (a)(5) ~~[(a)(3)]~~.

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