

First Regular Session  
Sixty-eighth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 11-0096.01 Chuck Brackney

SENATE BILL 11-024

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

King K.,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Looper,

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Senate Committees  
State, Veterans & Military Affairs

House Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101      **CONCERNING FREE STATE PARKS ADMISSION FOR VETERANS, AND, IN**  
102            **CONNECTION THEREWITH, ESTABLISHING FREE ADMISSION ON**  
103            **A SPECIFIED DAY EACH YEAR FOR VETERANS AND FREE STATE**  
104            **PARKS ADMISSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES**  
105            **ARMED SERVICES WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAMS WHO HAVE**  
106            **SUSTAINED SEVERE COMBAT-RELATED INJURIES WHILE SERVING**  
107            **IN POST-SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY**  
108            **OPERATIONS.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that*

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

*applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/bills/summaries>.)*

The bill allows service members who have been wounded in Afghanistan or Iraq free admission to Colorado state parks and allows a free day of admission for all veterans for one day of each year.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** 33-12-106, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended  
3 BY THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING NEW SUBSECTIONS to  
4 read:

5 **33-12-106. Park entrance privileges - identified veterans -**  
6 **wounded warriors - search and rescue organizations conducting**  
7 **training activities - legislative declaration - rules.** (2.3) THE BOARD  
8 MAY PROMULGATE RULES TO ALLOW FREE ENTRANCE TO ANY STATE PARK  
9 OR RECREATION AREA, NOT TO INCLUDE CAMPGROUNDS, YURTS, OR OTHER  
10 AMENITIES AND SERVICES OFFERED, FOR VETERANS ON ONE DAY EACH  
11 YEAR. THE BOARD MAY DETERMINE BY RULE WHICH DAY VETERANS ARE  
12 ALLOWED FREE ENTRANCE TO STATE PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS.

13 (2.7) (a) (I) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS, DETERMINES,  
14 AND DECLARES THAT:

15 (A) SERVICE MEMBERS RETURNING FROM POST-SEPTEMBER 11,  
16 2001, OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS WHO HAVE BEEN INJURED  
17 DURING COMBAT FACE A CHALLENGING PERIOD OF REHABILITATION UPON  
18 THEIR RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES;

19 (B) MANY OF THESE SERVICE MEMBERS ARE SO SEVERELY INJURED  
20 THAT THEY REQUIRE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR MANY YEARS, OR EVEN  
21 THE REST OF THEIR LIVES, AS THEY REENTER MAINSTREAM LIFE;

22 (C) ALTHOUGH THE SCOPE OF CARE PROVIDED BY THE UNITED

1 STATES ARMED SERVICES WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAMS VARIES WITH  
2 EACH SERVICE MEMBER, BASED ON THE NEEDS OF THE INDIVIDUAL, THESE  
3 SERVICE MEMBERS MAY BE ASSIGNED, UPON RETURN TO COLORADO, TO A  
4 MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITY SUCH AS EVANS ARMY HOSPITAL AT FORT  
5 CARSON, COLORADO;

6 (D) WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAMS ARE DIRECT EFFORTS BY THE  
7 UNITED STATES ARMED SERVICES TO CARE FOR SERVICE MEMBERS DURING  
8 THEIR LONG TRANSITION FROM COMBAT-RELATED INJURY TO CIVILIAN LIFE  
9 AND TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THOSE SERVICE MEMBERS IN RECOVERY,  
10 REHABILITATION, AND REINTEGRATION THAT IS WORTHY OF THEIR SERVICE  
11 AND SACRIFICE; AND

12 (E) FOR THOSE WOUNDED WARRIORS WHO SUFFER INJURIES SO  
13 SEVERE THAT THEY WILL REQUIRE INTENSE, ONGOING CARE OR  
14 ASSISTANCE FOR MANY YEARS OR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES, A SIGNIFICANT  
15 PART OF THE HEALING PROCESS IS ENABLING AND ENCOURAGING THESE  
16 SERVICE MEMBERS TO EXPERIENCE SOME OF THE OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL  
17 ACTIVITIES THEY ENJOYED PRIOR TO THEIR SERVICE-RELATED INJURIES.

18 (II) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEREFORE RECOGNIZES THE NEED  
19 TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLORADO'S SEVERELY INJURED  
20 "WOUNDED WARRIORS" TO ENJOY THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE STATE  
21 AS PART OF THEIR REHABILITATIVE CARE. FURTHERMORE, OFFERING FREE  
22 ENTRANCE TO STATE PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS TO SUCH  
23 RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS IS A SMALL, BUT RECOGNIZABLE,  
24 ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THEIR SELFLESS SERVICE AND SACRIFICE.

25 (b) THE BOARD MAY PROMULGATE RULES TO ALLOW FREE  
26 ENTRANCE TO ANY STATE PARK OR RECREATION AREA, NOT TO INCLUDE  
27 CAMPGROUNDS, YURTS, OR OTHER AMENITIES OR SERVICES OFFERED, FOR

1 PARTICIPANTS IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED SERVICES WOUNDED  
2 WARRIOR PROGRAMS WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF, OR STATIONED IN,  
3 COLORADO.

4 (c) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (2.7), "UNITED STATES ARMED  
5 SERVICES WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAMS" MEANS:

- 6 (I) THE ARMY WOUNDED WARRIOR (AW2) PROGRAM;
- 7 (II) THE AIR FORCE WOUNDED WARRIOR (AFW2) PROGRAM;
- 8 (III) THE NAVY SAFE HARBOR PROGRAM;
- 9 (IV) THE COAST GUARD WOUNDED WARRIOR REGIMENT; AND
- 10 (V) ANY SUCCESSOR PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY A BRANCH OF  
11 THE UNITED STATES ARMED SERVICES TO PROVIDE INDIVIDUALIZED  
12 SUPPORT FOR SERVICE MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN SEVERELY INJURED IN  
13 OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS UNDERTAKEN SINCE SEPTEMBER  
14 11, 2001.

15 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
16 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
17 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.