

Senate Bill 190

By: Senators Wicks of the 34th, Merritt of the 9th, Harbison of the 15th, McLaurin of the 14th, Jones of the 10th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to general provisions of parks, historic areas, memorials, and recreation,  
3 so as to provide certain fee waivers for active duty members of the military, veterans, and  
4 family members; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for related matters; to repeal  
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
9 relating to general provisions of parks, historic areas, memorials, and recreation, is amended  
10 by revising Code Section 12-3-9.1, relating to discount for certain disabled veterans, as  
11 follows:

12 "12-3-9.1.

13 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

14 (1) 'Active duty member' means a member of the United States armed forces serving on  
15 a full-time basis.

(1) ~~'Disabled veteran' means a veteran discharged under honorable conditions from any branch of the armed forces of the United States who has a physical disability which was incurred during the period of service in the armed forces and who is a resident of the State of Georgia.~~

(2) 'Armed forces' means the United States army, navy, marine corps, space force, coast guard, air force, Georgia National Guard, or other reserve unit of the United States military.

(2)(3) 'Fee' means the charge or fee established by the Board of Natural Resources for the use or occupancy of any state park, historic site, or recreational area and specifically includes, but is not limited to, entrance or admittance fees, rental fees for cabins or other overnight lodgings, rental fees for campsites, and fees for the use of golf courses or other recreational facilities.

(4) 'Gold Star family member' means an immediate family member of a deceased member of the armed forces who died in the line of duty.

(5) 'Immediate family member' means a parent, child, spouse, brother, or sister.

(6) 'Veteran' means a former member of the armed forces who received an honorable discharge.

(b) Any ~~disabled veteran~~ Gold Star family member may apply to the commissioner of veterans service for certification as a ~~disabled veteran~~ Gold Star family member as defined by paragraph ~~(1)~~(4) of subsection (a) of this Code section. The commissioner of veterans service is authorized and directed to certify such ~~applicants~~ applicant as ~~disabled veterans~~ a Gold Star family member and to issue to such ~~applicants~~ applicant such proof of certification as the commissioner finds appropriate. The commissioner of veterans service ~~may~~ shall by rule or regulation require such documentation as may be necessary to certify ~~disabled veterans~~ a Gold Star family member as provided in this subsection.

(c) Any ~~disabled~~ veteran, active duty member, or Gold Star family member who is certified as such by the commissioner of veterans service as provided in subsection (b) of

43 this Code section shall be granted a ~~discount of 25 percent~~ waiver of the fee otherwise  
44 applicable at any state park, historic site, or recreational area operated by or pursuant to the  
45 authority of the Department of Natural Resources or any division or other agency of said  
46 department.

47 (d) The ~~discount~~ waiver provided for in subsection (c) of this Code section:

48 (1) Shall apply to rental fees for cabins, campsites, or other overnight accommodations  
49 ~~for the disabled veteran and members of the disabled veteran's immediate family who~~  
50 occupy any disabled veteran, active duty member, or Gold Star family member who  
51 occupies the overnight accommodations ~~with the disabled veteran~~; and

52 (2) Shall not apply to rental or use fees for any group facilities or accommodations.

53 (e) The Department of Natural Resources shall promulgate rules and regulations for  
54 verifying eligibility, issuing passes, and promoting the program described in this Code  
55 section."

## 56 SECTION 2.

57 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.