

HOUSE BILL No. 1556

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 14-8-2-296.5; IC 14-19-3-1.5.

Synopsis: Free state park admission for veterans. Requires the department of natural resources to provide free admission to state parks to veterans with the proper identification.

Effective: July 1, 2025.

Baird

January 21, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources.



First Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2025)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2024 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1556

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning natural and cultural resources.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 14-8-2-296.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
2 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025]: **Sec. 296.5. "Veteran", for purposes of**
4 **IC 14-19-3-1.5, means an individual who:**

5 **(1) has served in:**

6 **(A) the armed forces of the United States or their reserves;**

7 **(B) the Indiana Army National Guard; or**

8 **(C) the Indiana Air National Guard; and**

9 **(2) was released from active duty under conditions other than**
10 **dishonorable.**

11 SECTION 2. IC 14-19-3-1.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
12 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
13 1, 2025]: **Sec. 1.5. (a) The department shall admit and may not**
14 **charge an admission fee for use of an Indiana state park to:**

15 **(1) an individual who is:**

16 **(A) a veteran; and**

17 **(B) an Indiana resident; and**



1 **(2) the individual's:**

2 **(A) motor vehicle; and**

3 **(B) passengers.**

4 **The individual must present an item described in subsection (c) for**
5 **the department to verify that the individual meets the**
6 **requirements of this subsection.**

7 **(b) Free admittance to a state park is limited to an individual**
8 **described in subsection (a) and not more than five (5) occupants in**
9 **a vehicle entering with the individual.**

10 **(c) The following items may be used to verify that an individual**
11 **qualifies for admission under subsection (a):**

12 **(1) A United States Uniformed Services Retiree Identification**
13 **Card.**

14 **(2) A DD 214 or DD 215 record.**

15 **(3) United States military discharge papers.**

16 **(4) A credential issued to the individual that contains an**
17 **indication of veteran status under IC 9-24-11-5.5 or**
18 **IC 9-24-16-3.**

19 **(5) Any other identification approved by the department, in**
20 **consultation with the Indiana department of veterans' affairs**
21 **established by IC 10-17-1-2.**

