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VETERAN ACCESS TO STATE PARKS
2024 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Karen Kwan
House Sponsor: Matthew H. Gwynn

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill expands veteran access to state parks.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- renumbers a provision that expands the State Parks Honor Pass Program to all veterans with any percentage of disability rating from the Veterans Administration; and
- creates a one-year pilot program that expands free access to state parks on a limited basis to veterans who have an Interagency Military-Lifetime Pass for national parks and are a resident of the state.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2025:

- to Department of Veterans and Military Affairs - DVMA Pass Through - DVMA Pass Through as a one-time appropriation:
 - from the General Fund, One-time, \$200,000

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

63I-2-279, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 33, 139 and 221

ENACTS:

79-4-1002, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **63I-2-279** is amended to read:

28 **63I-2-279 . Repeal dates: Title 79.**

29 (1) Section 79-2-206, Transition, is repealed July 1, 2024.

30 (2) Section 79-2-407, which directs the Department of Natural Resources to study funding
31 for water infrastructure costs, is repealed July 1, 2025.

32 (3) Subsection 79-4-1002(2), which creates a pilot program for veteran free admission to
33 state parks, is repealed July 1, 2025.

34 [~~3~~] (4) Section 79-7-303 is repealed on July 1, 2024.

35 Section 2. Section **79-4-1002** is enacted to read:

36 **79-4-1002 . Veteran access to state parks.**

37 (1) The division shall make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
38 Administrative Rulemaking Act, to grant free admission to state parks to an honorably
39 discharged veteran who:

40 (a) is a resident of the state; and

41 (b) has a current service-connected disability rating issued by the United States Veterans
42 Benefits Administration.

43 (2) (a) Beginning on July 1, 2024, and ending on June 30, 2025, the division shall offer a
44 pilot program that grants free admission to state parks to a veteran who:

45 (i) is a resident of the state; and

46 (ii) has an Interagency Military-Lifetime Pass for national parks and federal
47 recreational lands.

48 (b) The division may make rules to establish the pilot program described in Subsection
49 (2)(a).

50 Section 3. **FY 2025 Appropriation.**

51 The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
52 2024, and ending June 30, 2025. These are additions to amounts previously
53 appropriated for fiscal year 2025.

54 Subsection 3(a) **Operating and Capital Budgets**

55 Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures Act,
56 the Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts
57 indicated for the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.

58	ITEM 1	To Department of Veterans and Military Affairs - DVMA Pass Through	
59		From General Fund, One-time	\$200,000
60		Schedule of Programs:	
61		DVMA Pass Through	\$200,000

62 The Legislature intends that the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs pass
63 through the appropriation under this section to the Division of State Parks to pay for
64 free veteran admission to state parks in accordance with Subsection <xref
65 refnumber="1-6">79-4-1002(2)</xref>79-4-1002(2).

66 Section 4. **Effective date.**

67 This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.