

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0047

State parks-user fee program.

Sponsored by: Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and
Cultural Resources Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to state parks; providing for user fees to
2 be collected at the time of vehicle registrations;
3 providing for a waiver of the additional fee; providing for
4 rulemaking; providing for distribution and use of
5 additional fee; eliminating collection of daily use fees at
6 state parks, historic sites, state recreation areas and
7 state archeological sites for Wyoming residents; and
8 providing for an effective date.

9

10 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

11

12 **Section 1.** W.S. 31-3-101(a) by creating a new
13 paragraph (iv), 31-3-103 by creating a new subsection (m)
14 and 36-4-121(a)(intro), (i), (iii), (iv), by creating a new
15 paragraph (xvii), (h) and (n) are amended to read:

16

1 **31-3-101. Registration fees; exemptions.**

2

3 (a) Except as otherwise provided, the following fees
4 shall accompany each application for the registration of a
5 vehicle:

6

7 (iv) A state parks, historic sites, recreation
8 area and archeological site user fee of five dollars
9 (\$5.00) shall be collected for all passenger cars
10 registering under subparagraph (ii)(A) of this subsection
11 and noncommercial vehicles registering under subparagraph
12 (ii)(E) of this subsection at the time of registration. A
13 person who registers such a vehicle may, at the time of
14 annual registration make a written election not to pay the
15 five dollar (\$5.00) state parks user fee authorized under
16 this paragraph. If a written election is made, the fee
17 required in this paragraph shall not be collected. The
18 department shall, by rule and regulation, prescribe a
19 system to be implemented by county treasurers that will
20 clearly notify the applicant of his right to check a box
21 and thereby elect not to pay the fee.

22

23 **31-3-103. Distribution of fees; refunds.**

24

1 (m) The fees collected pursuant to W.S.
2 31-3-101(a)(iv) shall be distributed to a special revenue
3 fund to be deposited as follows:

4
5 (i) Fifty percent (50%) shall be deposited in an
6 operation and maintenance account within the special
7 revenue fund for purposes of providing for operation and
8 maintenance at state parks, recreation areas,
9 archaeological sites and historic sites; and

10
11 (ii) Fifty percent (50%) shall be deposited in
12 the capital construction account created by W.S.
13 36-4-121(h).

14
15 **36-4-121. Permits to use state parks, recreation**
16 **areas and historic sites.**

17
18 (a) The department of state parks and cultural
19 resources shall offer for sale permits that allow use of
20 the state parks, recreation areas, archeological sites and
21 historic sites. Except as otherwise provided by law, daily
22 use permits shall be required at Glendo, Guernsey, Curt
23 Gowdy, Edness Kimball Wilkins, Buffalo Bill, Boysen,
24 Seminole and Keyhole state parks and Fort Bridger, South

1 Pass City, Trail End, Fort Fetterman and Fort Phil Kearney
2 state historic sites, and Hawk Springs state recreation
3 area. The department may establish voluntary pay stations
4 at Bear River and Hot Springs state parks to allow users of
5 those parks to make voluntary contributions for the use of
6 the state parks. Persons who enter or use Bear River or Hot
7 Springs state park without paying daily use fees shall not
8 be subject to the penalties provided for in subsection (j)
9 of this section. Overnight camping permits shall be
10 required at Boysen, Buffalo Bill, Curt Gowdy, Glendo,
11 Guernsey, Keyhole, Seminoe and Sinks Canyon state parks,
12 Connor Battlefield and Fort Fetterman state historic site
13 sites, Medicine Lodge state archeological site and Hawk
14 Springs state recreation area by the department during the
15 entire calendar year. Except for the lifetime permit issued
16 without cost pursuant to subsection (n) of this section or
17 as otherwise provided by law, the cost of the permits
18 authorized under this section shall be:

19

20 (i) ~~Thirty three dollars (\$33.00) per calendar~~
21 ~~year for a resident annual daily use permit and~~ Fifty-three
22 dollars (\$53.00) for a nonresident annual daily use permit
23 to designated state parks, historic sites, archeological
24 sites and recreation areas, valid for the holder and

1 occupants of the holder's vehicle, provided ~~resident~~
2 ~~permits purchased pursuant to this paragraph between~~
3 ~~January 1 through February 15 of each year shall cost~~
4 ~~twenty seven dollars (\$27.00) and nonresident permits~~
5 purchased ~~during the same period~~ pursuant to this paragraph
6 between January 1 through February 15 of each year shall
7 cost forty-six dollars (\$46.00);

8
9 (iii) Except as provided under paragraph (a)(v)
10 of this section, ~~four dollars (\$4.00) for residents and~~ six
11 dollars (\$6.00) for nonresidents for the daily use fee for
12 designated state parks, archeological sites and recreation
13 areas, valid for the date of purchase for the holder and
14 occupants of the holder's vehicle and for the holder
15 entering the park or area by bicycle, horseback or on foot;

16
17 (iv) Except as provided under paragraph (a)(v)
18 of this section, ~~two dollars (\$2.00) per person for~~
19 ~~residents and~~ four dollars (\$4.00) per person for
20 nonresidents for the daily use fee for designated state
21 historic sites, valid for the date of purchase for the
22 holder only. The fee is not required for persons under the
23 age of eighteen (18) years;

24

1 (xvii) Residents shall not be required to pay a
2 daily use fee for access to state parks, historic sites,
3 recreation areas or archeological sites. Other fees for
4 the use of state parks, such as overnight camping fees, are
5 still chargeable and may be collected by the department.

6
7 (h) The funds received by the department from the
8 sale of the permits under this section and received
9 pursuant to W.S. 31-3-103(m)(ii) shall be deposited in a
10 capital construction account and may be expended by the
11 department for capital construction projects, major
12 maintenance, ~~and~~ site interpretation such as exhibits,
13 signage and displays and for the administration of the fee
14 program including the cost of purchasing permits, fee
15 envelopes, signs and administering reservations as approved
16 by the legislature.

17
18 (n) Any resident disabled veteran who receives fifty
19 percent (50%) or more service connected disability
20 compensation from the United States department of veteran's
21 affairs may apply to the department for a lifetime permit
22 authorizing the use of state parks, recreation areas,
23 archeological sites and historic sites without payment of
24 any ~~daily use,~~ overnight camping or other fee authorized to

1 be charged pursuant to this section. Only one (1) permit
2 shall be issued to any qualified applicant under this
3 subsection and shall be valid for the applicant and for all
4 occupants of the applicant's vehicle. In addition to
5 information and other application procedural requirements
6 prescribed by rule and regulation of the department,
7 application for the lifetime permit shall include proof of
8 residency and certification of the service connected
9 disability. The lifetime permit is valid as long as the
10 holder is a Wyoming resident. A permit under this
11 subsection shall be issued to an eligible applicant without
12 the imposition of a fee.

13

14 **Section 2.** This act is effective January 1, 2012.

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(END)