

House Bill 971

By: Representatives Amerson of the 9th, Walker of the 107th, Bridges of the 10th, Dickson of the 6th, Coleman of the 97th, 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 relative to parks, historic areas, memorials, and
3 recreation, so as to change certain provisions relating to discounts for certified disabled
4 veterans; to provide for discounts for senior citizens; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
5 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 relative to parks, historic areas, memorials, and recreation, is
10 amended by striking Code Section 12-3-9.1, relating to discounts for certified disabled
11 veterans, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

12 "12-3-9.1.

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

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

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

23 (3) 'Senior citizen' means any resident of this state who is 62 years of age or older.

24 (b)(1) Any disabled veteran may apply to the commissioner of veterans service for
25 certification as a disabled veteran as defined by paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of this
26 Code section. The commissioner of veterans service is authorized and directed to certify

1 such applicants as disabled veterans and to issue to such applicants such proof of
 2 certification as the commissioner finds appropriate. The commissioner of veterans
 3 service may by rule or regulation require such documentation as may be necessary to
 4 certify disabled veterans as provided in this subsection.

5 (2) The Board of Natural Resources shall by rule or regulation require such
 6 documentation as may be reasonable and necessary to constitute satisfactory proof of
 7 residency and age for qualification as a senior citizen for purposes of this Code section.

8 (c)(1) Any disabled veteran who is certified as such by the commissioner of veterans
 9 service as provided in subsection (b) of this Code section shall be granted a discount of
 10 25 percent of the fee otherwise applicable at any state park, historic site, or recreational
 11 area operated by or pursuant to the authority of the Department of Natural Resources or
 12 any division or other agency of said department.

13 (2) Any senior citizen, upon showing satisfactory proof of residency and age and
 14 payment of a fee of \$50.00 to the Department of Natural Resources, shall be granted a
 15 lifetime pass which shall entitle him or her to free admission and a discount of 50 percent
 16 of any fee otherwise applicable at any state park, historic site, or recreational area
 17 operated by or pursuant to the authority of the Department of Natural Resources or any
 18 division or other agency of said department.

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

20 (1) Shall apply to rental fees for cabins, campsites, or other overnight accommodations
 21 for the disabled veteran or senior citizen and members of the disabled veteran's or senior
 22 citizen's immediate family who occupy the overnight accommodations with the disabled
 23 veteran or senior citizen; ~~and~~

24 (2) Shall not apply to rental or use fees for any group facilities or accommodations; ~~and~~

25 (3) Shall not be cumulative, but instead the senior citizen discount shall be in lieu of the
 26 disabled veteran discount in any case where a person qualifies as both a certified disabled
 27 veteran and senior citizen holding a lifetime pass."

28 SECTION 2.

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