

The Senate Natural Resources and the Environment Committee offered the following substitute to SB 392:

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 waivers of certain fees for unremarried surviving spouses or children  
5 of certain deceased veterans; to provide effective dates; to repeal conflicting laws; and for  
6 other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**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

13 "12-3-9.1.

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

15 (.1) 'Deceased veteran' means any person who served as member of the armed forces of  
16 the United States for at least 180 days of federal active duty, was on duty in a combat  
17 zone at the time of his or her death after September 11, 2001, and was a resident of this  
18 state at the time of his or her death.

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

23 (2) 'Fee' means the charge or fee established by the Board of Natural Resources for the  
24 use or occupancy of any state park, historic site, or recreational area and specifically  
25 includes, but is not limited to, entrance or admittance fees, rental fees for cabins or other

1 overnight lodgings, rental fees for campsites, and fees for the use of golf courses or other  
2 recreational facilities.

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

10 (2) Any resident of this state who at the time of application is an unremarried surviving  
11 spouse or child under 21 years of age of a deceased veteran as defined by paragraph (.1)  
12 of subsection (a) of this Code section may apply to the commissioner of veterans service  
13 for certification as such resident spouse or child. The commissioner of veterans service  
14 is authorized and directed to certify such applicants as resident unremarried surviving  
15 spouses or children of deceased veterans and to issue to such applicants such proof of  
16 certification as the commissioner finds appropriate. The commissioner of veterans  
17 service may by rule or regulation require such documentation as may be necessary to  
18 certify resident unremarried surviving spouses or children of deceased veterans as  
19 provided in this paragraph.

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

25 (2) Any resident who at the time of application is an unremarried surviving spouse or  
26 child under 21 years of age of a deceased veteran and who is certified as such by the  
27 commissioner of veterans service as provided in paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of this  
28 Code section shall be granted a waiver of annual admission fees and annual parking fees  
29 for all state parks, historic sites, or recreational areas operated by or pursuant to the  
30 authority of the Department of Natural Resources or any division or other agency of said  
31 department; provided, however, that such a waiver shall be void upon such person  
32 moving his or her residence to another state; such a waiver granted to an unremarried  
33 surviving spouse of a deceased veteran shall be void upon the remarriage of such  
34 surviving spouse; and such a waiver granted to a child under 21 years of age of a  
35 deceased veteran shall expire upon such person reaching 21 years of age.

36 (d) The discount provided for in paragraph (1) of subsection (c) of this Code section:

1 (1) Shall apply to rental fees for cabins, campsites, or other overnight accommodations  
 2 for the disabled veteran and members of the disabled veteran's immediate family who  
 3 occupy the overnight accommodations with the disabled veteran; and

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

## 5 SECTION 2.

6 Said part is further amended by striking said Code Section 12-3-9.1 and inserting in lieu  
 7 thereof the following:

8 "12-3-9.1.

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

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

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

19 (b) Any disabled veteran may apply to the commissioner of veterans service for  
 20 certification as a disabled veteran as defined by paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of this Code  
 21 section. The commissioner of veterans service is authorized and directed to certify such  
 22 applicants as disabled veterans and to issue to such applicants such proof of certification  
 23 as the commissioner finds appropriate. The commissioner of veterans service may by rule  
 24 or regulation require such documentation as may be necessary to certify disabled veterans  
 25 as provided in this subsection.

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

31 (d) The discount provided for in subsection (c) of this Code section:

32 (1) Shall apply to rental fees for cabins, campsites, or other overnight accommodations  
 33 for the disabled veteran and members of the disabled veteran's immediate family who  
 34 occupy the overnight accommodations with the disabled veteran; and

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

**SECTION 3.**

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2 (a) Section 1, this Section, and Section 4 of this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2006.

3 (b) Section 2 of this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2011.

**SECTION 4.**

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