

House Bill 547

By: Representatives Beverly of the 143rd, Sims of the 169th, Watson of the 172nd, and Peake of the 141st

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 provide that entrance fees to state parks shall be waived for disabled
4 veterans; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 3 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
8 relating to general provisions relative to parks, historic areas, memorials, and recreation, is
9 amended by revising Code Section 12-3-9.1, relating to discount for certified disabled
10 veterans, as follows:

11 "12-3-9.1.

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

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

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

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

27 or regulation require such documentation as may be necessary to certify disabled veterans
28 as provided in this subsection.

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

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

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

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

41 **SECTION 2.**

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