

House Bill 311

By: Representatives Spencer of the 180<sup>th</sup>, Yates of the 73<sup>rd</sup>, Kidd of the 145<sup>th</sup>, Williams of the 168<sup>th</sup>, Taylor of the 79<sup>th</sup>, 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 provide for free access to state parks, historic sites, memorials, and  
4 recreational areas for certain military veterans; 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 revising Code Section 12-3-9.1, relating to park discounts for certified disabled  
11 veterans, as follows:

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 (2) 'Veteran' means a former member of any branch of the armed forces of the United  
24 States or the Georgia National Guard who has received an honorable discharge, is a  
25 resident of the State of Georgia, and does not qualify as a disabled veteran.

26 (b) Any veteran or disabled veteran may apply to the commissioner of veterans service for  
 27 certification as a veteran or disabled veteran as defined by paragraph (1) of subsection (a)  
 28 of this Code section. The commissioner of veterans service is authorized and directed to  
 29 certify such applicants as veterans or disabled veterans and to issue to such applicants such  
 30 proof of certification as the commissioner of veterans service finds appropriate. The  
 31 commissioner of veterans service may by rule or regulation require such documentation as  
 32 may be necessary to certify veterans or disabled veterans as provided in this subsection.

33 (c) Any veteran or disabled veteran who is certified as such by the commissioner of  
 34 veterans service as provided in ~~subsection (b)~~ of this Code section shall be granted a  
 35 discount of ~~25~~ 100 percent of the ~~fee~~ otherwise applicable at charge or fee established by  
 36 the Board of Natural Resources for entrance or admission to any state park, historic site,  
 37 or recreational area operated by or pursuant to the authority of the Department of Natural  
 38 Resources or any division or other agency of ~~said~~ such department.

39 (d) In addition to the discount provided in subsection (c) of this Code section, any disabled  
 40 veteran who is certified as such by the commissioner of veterans service as provided in this  
 41 Code section shall be granted a discount of 25 percent of the otherwise applicable charge  
 42 or fee established by the Board of Natural Resources for the use or occupancy of any state  
 43 park, historic site, or recreational area operated by or pursuant to the authority of the  
 44 Department of Natural Resources or any division or other agency of such department. The  
 45 discount provided for in this subsection ~~(c)~~ of this Code section:

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

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

50 **SECTION 2.**

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