

VETERAN ACCESS TO STATE PARKS

2022 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Mike Schultz

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions related to veteran access to state parks.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

▶ expands the State Parks Honor Pass Program to all veterans with any percentage of disability rating from the Veterans Administration.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

79-4-304, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2016, Chapter 142

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **79-4-304** is amended to read:

79-4-304. Board rulemaking authority.

(1) Rules made by the board shall be made in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.

(2) (a) The board may make rules:



- 28 (i) governing the use of the state park system;
- 29 (ii) to protect state parks and their natural and cultural resources from misuse or
- 30 damage, including watersheds, plants, wildlife, and park amenities; and
- 31 (iii) to provide for public safety and preserve the peace within state parks.
- 32 (b) To accomplish the purposes stated in Subsection (2)(a), the board may enact rules
- 33 that:
- 34 (i) close or partially close state parks; or
- 35 (ii) establish use or access restrictions within state parks.
- 36 (c) Rules made under Subsection (2) may not have the effect of preventing the transfer
- 37 of livestock along a livestock highway established in accordance with Section [72-3-112](#).
- 38 (3) The board shall adopt rules:
- 39 (a) governing the collection of charges under Subsection [79-4-203](#)(8); and
- 40 (b) granting free admission to state parks to an honorably discharged veteran who [is]:
- 41 (i) is a resident of the state; and
- 42 (ii) has a current service-connected disability rating issued by the United States
- 43 Veterans Benefits Administration.
- 44 [~~ii) at least 50% disabled, as evidenced by documentation from:~~]
- 45 [~~(A) the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;~~]
- 46 [~~(B) an active component of the United States armed forces; or~~]
- 47 [~~(C) a reserve component of the United States armed forces.~~]