1	VETERAN ACCESS TO STATE PARKS
2	2024 GENERAL SESSION
3	STATE OF UTAH
4	Chief Sponsor: Karen Kwan
5	House Sponsor: Matthew H. Gwynn
6 7	LONG TITLE
8	General Description:
9	This bill expands veteran access to state parks.
10	Highlighted Provisions:
11	This bill:
12	renumbers a provision that expands the State Parks Honor Pass Program to all
13	veterans with any percentage of disability rating from the Veterans Administration;
14	and
15	 creates a one-year pilot program, subject to available funding, that expands free
16	access to state parks on a limited basis to veterans who have an Interagency
17	Military-Lifetime Pass for national parks and are a resident of the state.
18	Money Appropriated in this Bill:
19	This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2025:
20	 to Department of Veterans and Military Affairs - DVMA Pass Through - DVMA
21	Pass Through as a one-time appropriation:
22	• from the General Fund, One-time, \$50,000
23	Other Special Clauses:
24	None
25	Utah Code Sections Affected:



AMENDS:
63I-2-279, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 33, 139 and 221
ENACTS:
79-4-1002 , Utah Code Annotated 1953
Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:
Section 1. Section 63I-2-279 is amended to read:
63I-2-279. Repeal dates: Title 79.
(1) Section 79-2-206, Transition, is repealed July 1, 2024.
(2) Section 79-2-407, which directs the Department of Natural Resources to study
funding for water infrastructure costs, is repealed July 1, 2025.
(3) Subsection 79-4-1002(2), which creates a pilot program for veteran free admission
to state parks, is repealed July 1, 2025.
[(3)] <u>(4)</u> Section 79-7-303 is repealed on July 1, 2024.
Section 2. Section 79-4-1002 is enacted to read:
79-4-1002. Veteran access to state parks.
(1) The division shall make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
Administrative Rulemaking Act, to grant free admission to state parks to an honorably
discharged veteran who:
(a) is a resident of the state; and
(b) has a current service-connected disability rating issued by the United States
Veterans Benefits Administration.
(2) (a) Beginning on July 1, 2024, and ending on June 30, 2025, the division shall offer
a pilot program, subject to appropriation by the Legislature, that grants free admission to state
parks to a veteran who:
(i) is a resident of the state; and
(ii) has an Interagency Military-Lifetime Pass for national parks and federal
recreational lands.
(b) The division may make rules to establish the pilot program described in Subsection
<u>(2)(a).</u>
Section 3. FY 2025 Appropriation.

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57	The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
58	2024, and ending June 30, 2025. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for
59	fiscal year 2025.
60	Subsection 3(a). Operating and Capital Budgets.
61	Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures Act, the
62	Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts indicated for
63	the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.
64	ITEM 1 To Department of Veterans and Military Affairs - DVMA Pass Through
65	From General Fund, One-time \$50,000
66	Schedule of Programs:
67	DVMA Pass Through \$50,000
68	The Legislature intends that the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs pass through the
69	appropriation under this section to the Division of State Parks to pay for free veteran admission
70	to state parks in accordance with Subsection 79-4-1002(2).
71	Section 4. Effective date.
72	This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.