

Representative Matthew H. Gwynn proposes the following substitute bill:

VETERAN ACCESS TO STATE PARKS

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Karen Kwan

House Sponsor: Matthew H. Gwynn

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill expands veteran access to state parks.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ renumbers a provision that expands the State Parks Honor Pass Program to all veterans with any percentage of disability rating from the Veterans Administration;
- and
- ▶ creates a one-year pilot program, subject to available funding, that expands free access to state parks on a limited basis to veterans who have an Interagency Military-Lifetime Pass for national parks and are a resident of the state.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2025:

- ▶ to Department of Veterans and Military Affairs - DVMA Pass Through - DVMA Pass Through as a one-time appropriation:
 - from the General Fund, One-time, \$50,000

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:



26 AMENDS:

27 **63I-2-279**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 33, 139 and 221

28 ENACTS:

29 **79-4-1002**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



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

32 Section 1. Section **63I-2-279** is amended to read:

33 **63I-2-279. Repeal dates: Title 79.**

34 (1) Section **79-2-206**, Transition, is repealed July 1, 2024.

35 (2) Section **79-2-407**, which directs the Department of Natural Resources to study
36 funding for water infrastructure costs, is repealed July 1, 2025.

37 (3) Subsection **79-4-1002(2)**, which creates a pilot program for veteran free admission
38 to state parks, is repealed July 1, 2025.

39 [~~3~~] (4) Section **79-7-303** is repealed on July 1, 2024.

40 Section 2. Section **79-4-1002** is enacted to read:

41 **79-4-1002. Veteran access to state parks.**

42 (1) The division shall make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
43 Administrative Rulemaking Act, to grant free admission to state parks to an honorably
44 discharged veteran who:

45 (a) is a resident of the state; and

46 (b) has a current service-connected disability rating issued by the United States
47 Veterans Benefits Administration.

48 (2) (a) Beginning on July 1, 2024, and ending on June 30, 2025, the division shall offer
49 a pilot program, subject to appropriation by the Legislature, that grants free admission to state
50 parks to a veteran who:

51 (i) is a resident of the state; and

52 (ii) has an Interagency Military-Lifetime Pass for national parks and federal
53 recreational lands.

54 (b) The division may make rules to establish the pilot program described in Subsection
55 (2)(a).

56 Section 3. **FY 2025 Appropriation.**

