

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 708

H. P. 526

House of Representatives, February 8, 1973

Referred to Committee on Human Resources. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Clark of Freeport.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

**AN ACT Providing for Reduced Rates for Senior Citizens Using State
Recreation and Camping Areas.**

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

R. S., T. 12, c. 203-A, additional. Title 12 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter 203-A to read as follows:

CHAPTER 203-A

CAMPING FEES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

§ 621. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following words shall have the following meanings.

1. Daily entrance fee. Daily entrance fee means monetary consideration assessed individuals for access or use, or both, of state park and recreation facilities.

2. Overnight camping fee. Overnight camping fee means normal assessment for privilege of occupying one campsite for an established period and includes access and privileges of available water and sanitary facilities.

3. Recreation and camping areas. Recreation and camping areas means all state-owned or operated, or both, forests, parks, preserves, historical sites and recreation areas which have accommodations for campers.

4. Senior citizen. Senior citizen means a state resident who has reached the age of 62.

§ 622. Entrance fee

Any senior citizen shall be admitted to recreation and camping areas without regard to daily entrance fees.

§ 623. Camping fee

Any senior citizen shall be permitted user privileges to recreation and camping areas at $\frac{1}{2}$ the normal overnight camping fee.

§ 624. Procedures

Administrative authorities responsible for the operation of recreation and camping areas shall establish procedures for granting the privileges under this chapter in such a manner that qualification processes do not cause undue hardship for those applicants seeking to avail themselves of this chapter.

§ 625. Spouse

Privileges of this chapter shall be granted to a senior citizen and to a legal spouse thereof, who may or may not qualify under the terms of this chapter.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Justification: The Legislature recognizes: (1) The previous contribution of senior citizens, as tax paying citizens of the State, to the planning, development, continued improvement and maintenance of our state recreation and park system, and (2) the inability of senior citizens to survive and enjoy leisure facilities on fixed incomes in a period of economic inflation.

Purpose: Alleviation of economic hardships for senior citizens of our State who wish to avail themselves of the leisure opportunities provided by our parks and recreation areas.

Precedent: To adopt on our state level, a program similar in senior citizen benefits to the federal "Golden Eagle Passport" program, which was signed into law on July 11, 1972 by President Richard M. Nixon, with an effective date of January 1, 1973. The federal program eliminates daily entrance fees for senior citizens to all federal fee-charging recreation areas and further provides a 50% reduction on overnight camping fees to senior citizens.