

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 4-15-09

(Filing No. S- 69)

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3 **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

4 Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

5 **STATE OF MAINE**

6 **SENATE**

7 **124TH LEGISLATURE**

8 **FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

9 COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 159, L.D. 456, Bill, "An Act To
10 Provide Free Admission to State Parks to Veterans and Military Personnel"

11 Amend the bill by striking out all of section 1 and inserting the following:

12 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §1819-A**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 268, §1, is amended to
13 read:

14 **§1819-A. Day use passes for certain veterans**

15 Notwithstanding section 1819, the commissioner shall enter into a memorandum of
16 agreement with the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management for
17 the issuance of a free day use pass to state parks and historic sites to each veteran
18 determined by the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to meet
19 the criteria established in Title 37-B, section 6. The pass entitles the holder, and the
20 holder's spouse and children when accompanied by the holder, to admission free of
21 charge to all state parks and historic sites for the period described in Title 37-B, section 6.
22 This section is repealed June 30, ~~2010~~ 2015.

23 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §1819-B** is enacted to read:

24 **§1819-B. Day use passes for active military personnel**

25 Notwithstanding section 1819, the commissioner shall enter into a memorandum of
26 agreement with the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management for
27 the issuance of a free day use pass to state parks and historic sites to each active duty
28 military member determined by the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency
29 Management to meet the criteria established in Title 37-B, section 7. The pass entitles
30 the holder, and the holder's spouse and children when accompanied by the holder, to
31 admission free of charge to all state parks and historic sites.

32 **Sec. 3. 37-B MRSA §6**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 268, §3, is amended to read:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 **§6. Issuance of free day use pass**

2 The Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, in accordance
3 with a memorandum of agreement entered into with the Commissioner of Conservation
4 and this section, shall issue a free day use pass to state parks and historic sites to eligible
5 veterans. ~~The commissioner, in accordance with a memorandum of agreement entered~~
6 ~~into with the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and this section, shall issue a~~
7 ~~free fishing license and free hunting license to eligible veterans who meet other criteria of~~
8 ~~the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for the issuance of licenses.~~

9 **1. Eligibility.** The Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management
10 shall determine, based on an examination of an individual's discharge certificate from
11 active duty services, also known as the DD214, whether the following criteria are met:

12 A. The person is a resident of this State;

13 B. The person received an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable
14 conditions; and

15 C. Between October 1, 2001 and January 1, ~~2010~~ 2015, while a member of the
16 Maine National Guard or an active or reserve member of the uniformed services as
17 defined in 10 United States Code, Section 101(a)(5), the person served for a
18 minimum of 3 continuous months outside the United States either:

19 (1) On an operational mission for which members of the reserve were ordered to
20 active duty; or

21 (2) During a period of war declared by the United States Congress or a period of
22 national emergency declared by the President of the United States or Congress.

23 **2. Duration of passes.** A ~~license or~~ pass issued in accordance with this section is
24 valid for a minimum of 12 months from the date of an eligible veteran's discharge from
25 active duty. ~~The memoranda~~ memorandum of agreement between the departments may
26 allow issuance of passes ~~or licenses~~ for a period longer than 12 months.

27 **3. Responsibilities of commissioner.** The Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and
28 Emergency Management shall identify a point of contact within the department to issue
29 ~~licenses and~~ passes in accordance with this section and the ~~memoranda~~ memorandum of
30 agreement entered into with the Department of Conservation ~~and the Department of~~
31 ~~Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.~~ The commissioner shall periodically report to the
32 Department of Conservation with a listing of the names and addresses of all persons
33 receiving passes to state parks and historic sites and the expiration dates for those passes.
34 ~~The department shall periodically report to the Department of Inland Fisheries and~~
35 ~~Wildlife with a listing of the names and addresses of all persons receiving fishing licenses~~
36 ~~and hunting licenses and the expiration dates for those licenses.~~

37 **4. Repeal.** This section is repealed June 30, ~~2010~~ 2015.

38 **Sec. 4. 37-B MRS §7** is enacted to read:

39 **§7. Issuance of free day use pass**

40 The Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, in accordance
41 with a memorandum of agreement entered into with the Commissioner of Conservation

1 and this section, shall issue a free day use pass to state parks and historic sites to eligible
2 active duty military personnel.

3 **1. Eligibility.** The Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management
4 shall determine, based on an examination of an individual's military identification,
5 whether the following criteria are met:

6 A. The person's home of residence is this State; and

7 B. The person is serving in an enlisted grade in the armed forces as defined in 10
8 United States Code, Section 101(a)(4).

9 **2. Duration of passes.** A pass issued in accordance with this section is valid for 12
10 months from the date of issuance and may be renewed upon verification of continuing
11 eligibility.

12 **3. Responsibilities of commissioner.** The Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and
13 Emergency Management shall identify a point of contact within the department to issue
14 passes in accordance with this section and the memorandum of agreement entered into
15 with the Department of Conservation. The commissioner shall periodically report to the
16 Department of Conservation with a listing of the names and addresses of all persons
17 receiving passes to state parks and historic sites and the expiration dates for those passes.

18 **Sec. 5. Effective date.** That section of this Act that amends the Maine Revised
19 Statutes, Title 37-B, section 6 takes effect June 30, 2010.'

20 **SUMMARY**

21 This amendment replaces the bill. It extends the period of time that free day use
22 passes to state parks and historic sites for certain veterans may be issued until June 30,
23 2015. It also provides for the issuance of free passes to active military personnel whose
24 home of residence is Maine.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 456

LR 1096(02)

An Act To Provide Free Admission to State Parks to Veterans and Military Personnel

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"
Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Current biennium revenue decrease - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Allowing free admission to state-owned parks, camping areas and beaches to active duty members or veterans of the Armed Forces would result in a reduction of General Fund revenues which cannot be reasonably determined.

Additional costs to the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.