**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 51‑3‑60, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO FREE ADMISSION AND REDUCED CHARGES TO STATE PARKS, SO AS TO ALLOW ANY SOUTH CAROLINA RESIDENT WHO IS A VETERAN TO ENTER INTO A STATE PARK WITHOUT CHARGE UPON PRESENTATION OF AN IDENTIFICATION CARD FROM THE COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE AND TO GRANT ALL STATE EMPLOYEES A TWENTY PERCENT DISCOUNT ON ADMISSION TO ALL SOUTH CAROLINA STATE PARKS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 51‑3‑60 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 51‑3‑60. (A) ~~Any~~ A South Carolina resident who is over sixty‑five years of age, ~~or~~ disabled, or legally blind, as defined in Section 43‑25‑20 ~~of the 1976 Code~~, may use any facility of a state park except campsites, overnight lodging, and recreation buildings without charge. ~~Such~~ South Carolina residents also may ~~also~~ use campsite facilities at one‑half of the prescribed fee. A person exercising this privilege on the basis of age shall present his Medicare card or other card approved by the South Carolina Commission on Aging to the employee of the State Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism who is in charge of the particular state park, and a person who is disabled or legally blind shall present to ~~such~~ the person in charge of the park a certificate to that effect from a licensed doctor of medicine or an official of an agency authorized by law to make determinations of disability or blindness. The authorization for use of the facilities as provided by this section ~~shall~~ are not ~~be~~ effective if it conflicts with any federal law, rule, or regulation.

The term ‘disabled’ ~~as used herein shall mean~~ means the inability to perform substantial gainful employment by reason of a medically‑determinable impairment, either physical or mental, which has lasted or is expected to last for a continuous period of twelve months or more.

(B) ~~Any~~ A South Carolina resident who is a veteran ~~and who has been classified by the Veterans Administration as permanently and totally disabled may~~ also may enter any state park without charge upon presentation to the person in charge of the park of ~~an~~ a military identification card ~~from the county veterans affairs officer stating the veteran’s permanent and total disability. A statement of age or disability may not be made for any person whose age and disability records are not maintained in the veterans affairs office at which the request is made~~.

(C) A state employee, as defined in Section 9‑1‑10, may receive a discount of twenty percent off of the admission fee to enter into any State operated park upon presentation of proof of employment with the State including, but not limited to, a state-issued identification badge.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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