**South Carolina General Assembly**

125th Session, 2023-2024

**H. 4951**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Landing, M.M. Smith, Lawson and Carter

Document Path: LC-0466CM24.docx

Introduced in the House on January 25, 2024

Currently residing in the House

Summary: State Parks

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 1/25/2024 House Introduced and read first time (House Journal‑page 45)

 1/25/2024 House Referred to Committee on **Ways and Means** (House Journal‑page 45)

 1/30/2024 House Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Carter

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**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[01/25/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess125_2023-2024/prever/4951_20240125.docx)

A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 51-3-60, RELATING TO the USE OF free and reduced charges for admission and use of state park FACILITIES, SO AS TO PROVIDE AN AUTISTIC PERSON MAY ENTER A STATE PARK FREE OF CHARGE.

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

SECTION 1. Section 51-3-60 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

 Section 51-3-60. Any 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 residents 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 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 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 not be effective if it conflicts with any federal law, rule, or regulation.

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

 Any South Carolina resident who is a veteran and who has been classified by the Veterans Administration as permanently and totally disabled may also enter any state park without charge upon presentation to the person in charge of the park of an 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 Veterans affairs Affairs office Office at which the request is made.

 Any South Carolina resident who is autistic may enter any state park without charge upon presentation to the person in charge of the park a driver’s license or identification card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles that indicates he is autistic.

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

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