



**ARIZONA STATE SENATE**  
*Fifty-First Legislature, Second Regular Session*

FACT SHEET FOR H.B. 2403

state parks; disabled veteran's pass..

Purpose

Creates a Disabled Veteran's Pass (Pass), granting specified disabled veterans free access to state parks.

Background

The 27 Arizona State Parks have fees for day use, camping and cabin use with annual passes also available for purchase. Fees and passes can cover one to four adults.

The Arizona State Parks currently offers a Veterans' Discount Program (Program). The Program grants a 50 percent day use discount to all service disabled veterans, up to 90 percent disability. Veterans who are 100 percent disabled receive a free day use pass. Active duty, National Guard and reserve military members, as well as retired veterans, are also eligible for the 50 percent day use discount. All discounted passes allow the veteran or military member and three additional adults entrance into the state park. The Program does not apply to Kartchner Caverns State Park cave tour tickets, special use fees, special program fees, special event admission fees, any applicable reservation fees, camping fees or overnight parking fees. Programs and events provided by third party operators, vendors or concessionaires are also exempt from the Program, as well as Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park.

The Arizona State Parks are funded by the State Parks Revenue Fund (Fund), which is collected from: 1) the sale of park posters, park postcards, books, souvenirs and sundry items; 2) monies appropriated by the Legislature for the purpose of enhancing state parks; 3) specifically designated gifts and donations; 4) all monies derived from state park user fees, concession fees and other revenue generating activities; 5) surcharges on park reservations; and 6) the sale of park assets. The Fund pays for the operation and maintenance of the state park system and to acquire and develop real property and improvements.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation, however, there is a potential fiscal impact to the State Parks Revenue Fund.

Provisions

1. Authorizes the Arizona State Parks Board to issue a free Pass to a person who submits satisfactory evidence that the person is a veteran of the U.S. armed forces with a service-connected disability of at least 30 percent. Stipulates that the person must also currently be a resident of Arizona and has been for at least one year.
2. Requires the Pass to grant park entrance to all state parks located in Arizona.

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3. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

House Action

PSMRA	2/12/14	DP	8-0-0-0
3 <sup>rd</sup> Read	2/25/14		58-1-1-0

Prepared by Senate Research

March 10, 2014

JT/TL/tf