

2026 -- H 7099

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S T A T E O F R H O D E I S L A N D

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

**RELATING TO PARKS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS -- GENERAL PROVISIONS --
PREFERENCE FOR RESIDENTS**

Introduced By: Representatives Azzinaro, Shallcross Smith, Corvese, McNamara,
Fellela, Solomon, and Kennedy

Date Introduced: January 14, 2026

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** Sections 32-1-16 and 32-1-17 of the General Laws in Chapter 32-1 entitled

2 "General Provisions" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **32-1-16. Preference for residents with disabilities. Preference for residents, including
those with disabilities.**

5 Residents of Rhode Island including, but not limited to, those who have a disability shall
6 be given preference in the use of campsites and other recreational facilities over nonresidents who
7 apply for permission to use those facilities. This preference shall be accomplished by providing
8 Rhode Island residents with a two (2) hour window on the online registration system to secure a
9 reservation before any nonresidents are authorized or permitted to make reservations.

10 **32-1-17. Persons with disabilities.**

11 (a) No fee shall be charged any person with a disability regardless of age, or to automobiles
12 transporting a non-driver with a disability, at any recreational facility owned and operated by the
13 state; provided, however, proper identification is presented as prescribed by the department of
14 environmental management. For the purpose of this section "person with a disability" shall mean
15 an individual who has a physical or mental impairment and is receiving:

16 (a)(1) Social security disability benefits (SSDI);

17 (b)(2) Supplemental security income benefits (SSI); or

18 (c)(3) Veterans benefits and who shall be determined under applicable federal law by the

1 federal department of veterans' affairs to be one hundred percent (100%) disabled through a
2 service-connected disability.

3 **(b)** For purpose of this section, "fees" shall include all fees for parking, admittance, or other
4 user fees for playing golf. The term "fees" shall not include licensing fees, camping fees, picnic
5 table fees, or specialized facility use fees, including, but not limited to, fees for the use of equestrian
6 areas, performing arts centers, game fields, and mule shed; provided however, that one hundred
7 percent (100%) disabled veterans shall be entitled to a fifty percent (50%) reduction for licensing
8 fees, camping fees, picnic table fees, or specialized facility use fees.

9 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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RELATING TO PARKS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS -- GENERAL PROVISIONS --
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- 1 This act would provide Rhode Island residents with priority when making reservations to
- 2 secure a campsite and other recreational facilities over nonresidents who apply for permission to
- 3 use those facilities. The act would also provide that veterans with a one hundred percent (100%)
- 4 disability rating shall receive a fifty percent (50%) reduction in fees for the use of certain state
- 5 recreational facilities, including licensing fees, camping fees, picnic table fees, or specialized
- 6 facility use fees.

7 This act would take effect upon passage.

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