

2025 -- H 5391

LC001138

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO PARKS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS -- PREFERENCE FOR RESIDENTS

Introduced By: Representatives Azzinaro, Kennedy, Fellela, Ackerman, Hull, Santucci,  
and J. Lombardi

Date Introduced: February 07, 2025

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**  
4 **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 shall be accomplished by providing Rhode Island  
8 residents with a two (2) hour window on the online registration system to secure a reservation  
9 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) Social security disability benefits (SSDI);

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

18 (c) Veterans benefits and who shall be determined under applicable federal law by the  
19 federal department of veterans' affairs to be one hundred percent (100%) disabled through a

1 service-connected disability.

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

8 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 -- PREFERENCE FOR RESIDENTS

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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 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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