

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 27, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1972

Introduced by Assembly Member Chau

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alejo, Brough, Brown, Dodd,
Cristina Garcia, and Mathis)**

**(Coauthors: Senators Allen, Anderson, Hertzberg, Hueso, Nguyen,
Nielsen, and Roth)**

February 16, 2016

An act to amend Section 5011.5 of the Public Resources Code, relating to veterans.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1972, as amended, Chau. Veterans: state park passes.

Existing law requires the Department of Parks and Recreation to issue a park pass for free use of all park facilities in the state park system to any veteran of war, as defined, in which the United States has been, or may be, engaged, and who meets specified criteria, such as being a resident of this state, presenting to the department proof of a service-connected disability, being held captive as a prisoner of war, or receiving a Congressional Medal of Honor, and having been honorably discharged from service.

This bill would instead require the Department of Parks and Recreation to issue a park pass for free use of all park facilities in the state park system to any veteran who meets the criteria set forth above. The bill would make related conforming changes. *The bill would require the department to report in its proposed budget, on or before January 1, 2019, on revenue losses with regard to the issuance of free veterans passes under these provisions.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 5011.5 of the Public Resources Code is
2 amended to read:
3 5011.5. (a) A veteran who is a resident of this state, upon
4 presentation to the department of proof of disability, proof of being
5 held captive as a prisoner of war, or proof of being a recipient of
6 a Congressional Medal of Honor, and proof of an honorable
7 discharge from service, upon application therefor, shall be issued
8 a pass entitling the bearer to the use of all facilities, including boat
9 launching facilities, in units of the state park system.
10 (b) *On or before January 1, 2019, the department shall report*
11 *in its proposed budget on the revenue losses associated with the*
12 *issuance of free veterans passes under this section.*
13 ~~(b)~~
14 (c) As used in this section:
15 (1) “Disability” means a veteran who has a 50 percent or greater
16 service-connected disability, as certified by the United States
17 Department of Veterans Affairs.
18 (2) “Prisoner of war” means a veteran who was held as a
19 prisoner of war by forces hostile to the United States, as certified
20 by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.
21 (3) “Veteran” means a former member of the Armed Forces of
22 the United States who was honorably discharged from service.
23 SEC. 2. *If revenue losses are determined to be significant*
24 *pursuant to the report made under Section 5011.5 of the Public*
25 *Resources Code, it is the intent of the Legislature to consider*
26 *alternative sources of funding to pay for the free park passes under*
27 *Section 5011.5 of the Public Resources Code without harming the*
28 *Department of Parks and Recreation’s operating budget.*