

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 8, 2000
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 13, 2000

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1651

**Introduced by Committee on Veterans Affairs (Dutra
(Chair), Dickerson (Vice Chair), Correa, Havice, and
~~Nakano~~ Nakano, and Wayne)**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alquist, Ashburn, Bates,
Bock, Calderon, Campbell, Cox, Cunneen, Davis,
Ducheny, Jackson, Keeley, Knox, Kuehl, Longville,
Machado, Mazzone, Robert Pacheco, Romero, Scott,
Strickland, Strom-Martin, and Zettel)**

**(Coauthors: Senators Johannessen, Karnette, Leslie,
Monteith, Rainey, and Solis)**

March 8, 1999

An act to amend Section 5011.5 of the Public Resources Code, relating to parks and recreation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1651, as amended, Committee on Veterans Affairs. Parks and recreation: disabled veterans: pass program.

Existing law requires the Department of Parks and Recreation to issue to a veteran, as defined, who is a resident of this state, a pass entitling the bearer to the use of all facilities in units of the state park system, upon application therefor, presentation of proof of disability or being held prisoner of

war, and of honorable discharge from service, upon the payment of a \$3.50 fee. Existing law provides that, for purposes of those provisions, “veteran” means any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who has a 70% or greater service-connected disability or a service-connected disability rated at 100% for reasons of unemployability, or who was held as a prisoner of war by forces hostile to the United States, as certified by the Veterans’ Administration, and who was honorably discharged from service.

This bill would *require that a pass issued under these provisions be valid for a period of 4 years, with the possibility of renewal for 4-year periods.* The bill would also revise the definition of “veteran,” for purposes of those provisions, to mean any *former* member of the Armed Forces who has a 50% or greater service-connected disability, or who was held captive as a prisoner of war by forces hostile to the United States, as certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and who was honorably discharged from service.

The bill would require the Department of Parks and Recreation to report, in writing, to the chairpersons of prescribed legislative committees regarding the frequency of the use of these passes.

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
 2 Code is amended to read:
 3 5011.5. (a) A veteran of any war in which the United
 4 States has been, or may be engaged, who is a resident of
 5 this state, upon presentation to the department of proof
 6 of disability or proof of being held captive as a prisoner of
 7 war and of an honorable discharge from service, upon
 8 application therefor and payment of three dollars and
 9 fifty cents (\$3.50), shall be issued a pass entitling the
 10 bearer to the use of all facilities, including boat launching
 11 facilities, in units of the state park system. *A pass issued*



1 *under this section shall be valid for a period of four years,*
2 *and may be renewed for periods of four years.*

3 ~~As used in this section, “war” means that period of time~~

4 *(b) As used in this section:*

5 *(1) “Veteran” means any former member of the*
6 *Armed Forces of the United States who has a 50 percent*
7 *or greater service-connected disability, or who was held*
8 *as a prisoner of war by forces hostile to the United States,*
9 *as certified by the United States Department of Veterans*
10 *Affairs, and who was honorably discharged from service.*

11 *(2) “War” means that period of time commencing*
12 *when Congress declares war or when the Armed Forces*
13 *of the United States are engaged in active military*
14 *operations against any foreign power, whether or not war*
15 *has been formally declared, and ending upon the*
16 *termination of hostilities as proclaimed by the President*
17 *of the United States.*

18 ~~As used in this section, “veteran” means any member~~
19 ~~of the Armed Forces of the United States who has a 50~~
20 ~~percent or greater service-connected disability or who~~
21 ~~was held as a prisoner of war by forces hostile to the~~
22 ~~United States, as certified by the United States~~
23 ~~Department of Veterans Affairs, and who was honorably~~
24 ~~discharged from service.~~

25 *SEC. 2. On or before January 1, 2004, the Department*
26 *of Parks and Recreation shall report, in writing, to the*
27 *chairpersons of the legislative fiscal committees and the*
28 *chairpersons of the appropriate legislative policy*
29 *committees its findings regarding the frequency of the*
30 *use of the passes issued pursuant to Section 5011.5 of the*
31 *Public Resources Code.*

