

1 HOUSE BILL 161

2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Rebecca Dow and Jay C. Block and Alan T. Martinez

5 and Tara L. Lujan and Debra M. Sariñana

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO STATE PARKS; PROVIDING TO VETERANS RESIDING IN THE
12 STATE ONE DAY-USE PASS FOR UNLIMITED ENTRY INTO STATE PARKS OR
13 RECREATION AREAS AND ONE CAMPING PASS FOR UNLIMITED USE OF
14 CAMPING AREAS OPERATED BY THE STATE PARKS DIVISION OF THE
15 ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT.

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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

18 SECTION 1. Section 16-2-7.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1999,
19 Chapter 174, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:

20 "16-2-7.1. FREE STATE PARK PASSES TO [~~DISABLED~~]
21 VETERANS.--

22 A. The state parks division of the energy, minerals
23 and natural resources department shall provide to a [~~fifty~~
24 ~~percent or more disabled~~] veteran residing in the state:

25 (1) one day-use pass for unlimited entry into

.229210.1

underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

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[bracketed material] = delete

1 state parks or recreation areas operated by the division; and

2 (2) one ~~[three-day]~~ camping pass ~~[per year for~~
3 ~~the]~~ for unlimited use of camping areas operated by the
4 division ~~[whether for consecutive or nonconsecutive days]~~.

5 B. ~~[Proof of disability satisfactory to the~~
6 ~~division is required to obtain the free passes]~~ As used in this
7 section, "veteran" means a New Mexico resident who:

8 (1) was regularly enlisted, drafted, inducted
9 or commissioned in the:

10 (a) armed forces of the United States
11 and was accepted for and assigned to active duty in the armed
12 forces of the United States;

13 (b) army reserve, navy reserve, marine
14 corps reserve, air force reserve, coast guard reserve, space
15 force reserve, army national guard or air national guard and
16 was accepted for and assigned to duty for a minimum of six
17 continuous years; or

18 (c) United States public health service
19 commissioned corps or the national oceanic and atmospheric
20 administration commissioned officer corps and served in the
21 capacity of a commissioned officer while on active duty in
22 defense of the United States; and

23 (2) was not separated from such service under
24 circumstances amounting to dishonorable discharge."