

CHAPTER 2016-196

Senate Bill No. 1202

An act relating to discounts on public park entrance fees and transportation fares; creating s. 125.029, F.S.; requiring counties to provide a partial or a full discount on park entrance fees to military members, veterans, and the spouse and parents of certain deceased military members, law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics; requiring that individuals seeking the discount present information satisfactory to the county department which evidences eligibility; defining the term “park entrance fee”; providing certain exclusions; creating s. 163.58, F.S.; requiring certain regional transportation authorities to provide a partial or a full discount on fares for certain disabled veterans; creating s. 166.0447, F.S.; requiring municipalities to provide a partial or a full discount on park entrance fees to military members, veterans, and the spouse and parents of certain deceased military members, law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics; requiring that individuals seeking the discount present information satisfactory to the municipal department which evidences eligibility; defining the term “park entrance fee”; providing certain exclusions; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 125.029, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

125.029 County park entrance fee discounts.—

(1) A county park or recreation department shall provide a partial or a full discount on park entrance fees to the following individuals who present information satisfactory to the county department which evidences eligibility for the discount:

(a) A current member of the United States Armed Forces, their reserve components, or the National Guard.

(b) An honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces, their reserve components, or the National Guard.

(c) An honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces, their reserve components, or the National Guard, who has a service-connected disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

(d) A surviving spouse and parents of a deceased member of the United States Armed Forces, their reserve components, or the National Guard, who died in the line of duty under combat-related conditions.

(e) A surviving spouse and parents of a law enforcement officer, as defined in s. 943.10(1), a firefighter, as defined in s. 633.102, or an emergency medical technician or paramedic employed by state or local government, who died in the line of duty.

(2) As used in this section, the term “park entrance fee” means a fee charged to access lands managed by a county park or recreation department. The term does not include expanded fees for amenities, such as campgrounds, aquatic facilities, stadiums or arenas, facility rentals, special events, boat launching, golf, zoos, museums, gardens, or programs taking place within public lands.

Section 2. Section 163.58, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

163.58 Transportation fare discounts.—An authority, as defined in this chapter, chapter 343, or chapter 349, shall provide a partial or a full discount on fares for the use of a fixed-route transportation system operated by the authority to a disabled veteran as described in s. 295.07(1)(a) who presents information satisfactory to the authority which evidences eligibility for the discount.

Section 3. Section 166.0447, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

166.0447 Municipal park entrance fee discounts.—

(1) A municipal park or recreation department shall provide a partial or a full discount on park entrance fees to the following individuals who present information satisfactory to the municipal department which evidences eligibility for the discount:

(a) A current member of the United States Armed Forces, their reserve components, or the National Guard.

(b) An honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces, their reserve components, or the National Guard.

(c) An honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces, their reserve components, or the National Guard, who has a service-connected disability as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

(d) A surviving spouse and parents of a deceased member of the United States Armed Forces, their reserve components, or the National Guard, who died in the line of duty under combat-related conditions.

(e) A surviving spouse and parents of a law enforcement officer, as defined in s. 943.10(1), a firefighter, as defined in s. 633.102, or an emergency medical technician or paramedic employed by state or local government, who died in the line of duty.

(2) As used in this section, the term “park entrance fee” means a fee charged to access lands managed by a municipal park or recreation department. The term does not include expanded fees for amenities, such as campgrounds, aquatic facilities, stadiums or arenas, facility rentals, special events, boat launching, golf, zoos, museums, gardens, or programs taking place within public lands.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.

Approved by the Governor April 6, 2016.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 6, 2016.