STATE OF NEW YORK

11431

IN ASSEMBLY

May 15, 2026

Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of M. of A. Schiavoni) -- read once and referred to the Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development

AN ACT to amend the parks, recreation and historic preservation law, in relation to providing free use of state parks for members or citizens of state or federally recognized Native American nations

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 13.19 of the parks, recreation and historic preservation law, as amended by chapter 616 of the laws of 2023, subdivision 2 as amended by chapter 103 of the laws of 2024, is amended to read as follows:

§ 13.19 Free use of **parks and** campsites. 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, any person who is blind, non-ambulatory, or an amputee [~~or~~], any veteran or member of a Gold Star family**, or any member or citizen of a state or federally recognized Native American nation** shall be permitted to use any of the public campsites, parks and other public places of recreation in this state, upon the same terms and conditions as apply to the general public, but without the payment of any fees or other charges for the use of such campsites, parks and other public places of recreation.

2. For the purposes of this section (a) "veteran" shall mean a resident of this state who is: (i) a veteran as such term is defined in section one of the veterans' services law; or (ii) a person who has served on active duty for the state as a member of the state organized militia as defined in subdivision nine of section one of the military law and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable; or (iii) a person who has served on active duty in the uniformed services of the United States or on active duty for the state as a member of the organized militia and has a qualifying condition, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, or is a discharged LGBT veteran, as defined in section one of

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service; and

(b) "member of a Gold Star family" shall mean a resident of this state who is a gold star parent as defined in section twenty-six of the veterans' services law, the spouse or domestic partner, or the biological, step, or legally adopted minor child of a veteran whose death qualified the parent for an annuity.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.