STATE OF NEW YORK

1765

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 14, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. STECK -- 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 allowing persons who are permanently disabled and require the use of a wheelchair to have free use of any of the public campsites, parks and other public places of recreation in this state

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

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

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 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[~~.~~]**; and**

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

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(c) "non-ambulatory" shall mean a person who is permanently disabled and requires the use of a wheelchair to access park facilities or is unable to move about in a field, wood, or other natural area without mechanical assistance.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.