STATE OF NEW YORK

2037

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 15, 2025

Introduced by Sen. ORTT -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation

AN ACT to amend the parks, recreation and historic preservation law, in relation to providing free use of state parks for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance personnel

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 person who is a resident of New York state and serves as an active volunteer firefighter, as defined in section two hundred fifteen of the general municipal law, or as an enrolled member of a volunteer ambulance service pursuant to article thirty of the public health law,** 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

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

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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.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth 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 is authorized and directed to be made and completed on or before such effective date.