

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 423

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6

7 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING A CAMPING FEE DISCOUNT AT STATE PARKS FOR
8 VETERANS; AND AMENDING SECTION 23-1-105, MCA."
9

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
11

12 **Section 1.** Section 23-1-105, MCA, is amended to read:

13 **"23-1-105. Fees and charges -- use of motor vehicle registration fee.** (1) The department may levy
14 and collect reasonable fees or other charges for the use of privileges and conveniences that may be provided
15 and to grant concessions that it considers advisable, except as provided in subsections (2) and (6). All money
16 derived from the activities of the department, except as provided in subsection (5), must be deposited in the state
17 treasury in a state special revenue fund to the credit of the department. [This state special revenue fund is subject
18 to legislative fund transfer.]

19 (2) Overnight camping fees established by the department under subsection (1) must be discounted 50%
20 for a campsite rented by a person who is a resident of Montana, as defined in 87-2-102, and is: either

21 (a) 62 years of age or older; or

22 (b) certified as disabled in accordance with rules adopted by the department; or

23 (c) a veteran of the armed forces. While camping at a discounted rate, the veteran shall carry proof of
24 the person's veteran status, such as a DD form 214, U.S. department of veterans affairs identification card, or
25 a driver's license indicating the person's veteran status.

26 (3) For a violation of any fee collection rule involving a vehicle, the registered owner of the vehicle at the
27 time of the violation is personally responsible if an adult is not in the vehicle at the time the violation is discovered
28 by an authorized officer. A defense that the vehicle was driven into the fee area by another person is not
29 allowable unless it is shown that at that time, the vehicle was being used without the consent of the registered
30 owner.

1 (4) Money received from the collection of fees and charges is subject to the deposit requirements of
2 17-6-105(6) unless the department has submitted and received approval for a modified deposit schedule pursuant
3 to 17-6-105(8).

4 (5) There is a fund of the enterprise fund type, as defined in 17-2-102(2)(a), for the purpose of managing
5 state park visitor services revenue. The fund is to be used by the department to serve the recreating public by
6 providing for the obtaining of inventory through purchase, production, or donation and for the sale of educational,
7 commemorative, and interpretive merchandise and other related goods and services at department sites and
8 facilities. The fund consists of money from the sale of educational, commemorative, and interpretive merchandise
9 and other related goods and services and from donations. Gross revenue from the sale of educational,
10 commemorative, and interpretive merchandise and other related goods and services must be deposited in the
11 fund. All interest and earnings on money deposited in the fund must be credited to the fund for use as provided
12 in this subsection.

13 (6) In recognition of the fact that individuals support state parks through the payment of certain motor
14 vehicle registration fees, persons who pay the fee provided for in 61-3-321(19)(a) may not be required to pay a
15 day-use fee for access to state parks. Other fees for the use of state parks and fishing access sites, such as
16 overnight camping fees, are still chargeable and may be collected by the department.

17 (7) Any increase in the motor vehicle registration fee collected pursuant to 61-3-321(19)(a) on or after
18 January 1, 2012, that is dedicated to state parks must be used by the department for maintenance and operation
19 of state parks. (Bracketed language in subsection (1) terminates June 30, 2019--sec. 28, Ch. 6, Sp. L. November
20 2017.)"

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