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HOUSE BILL

**55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022**

INTRODUCED BY

AN ACT

RELATING TO STATE PARKS; PROVIDING FREE STATE PARK PASSES TO  
VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF GOLD STAR FAMILIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. A new Section 16-2-7.2 NMSA 1978 is enacted to  
read:

"16-2-7.2. [NEW MATERIAL] FREE STATE PARK PASSES TO  
VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF GOLD STAR FAMILIES.--

A. The state parks division of the energy, minerals  
and natural resources department shall provide one day-use pass  
for unlimited entry into state parks or recreation areas  
operated by the division to veterans and members of gold star  
families residing in the state and other occupants of their  
noncommercial vehicle.

B. As used in this section:

.221405.1

underscored material = new  
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1 (1) "child" includes a biological, adopted or  
2 foster child, a stepchild, a legal ward or a child of a person  
3 standing in loco parentis;

4 (2) "member of gold star families" means a  
5 surviving parent, spouse, child or sibling of a service member  
6 killed in an armed conflict with an enemy of the United States;

7 (3) "parent" includes a biological, adoptive  
8 or foster parent, a stepparent or an individual who stands in  
9 loco parentis to a child;

10 (4) "sibling" includes a stepsibling and a  
11 half-sibling; and

12 (5) "veteran" means a New Mexico resident who:

13 (a) was regularly enlisted, drafted,  
14 inducted or commissioned in the: 1) armed forces of the United  
15 States and was accepted for and assigned to active duty in the  
16 armed forces of the United States; 2) army reserve, navy  
17 reserve, marine corps reserve, air force reserve, coast guard  
18 reserve, army national guard or air national guard and was  
19 accepted for and assigned to duty for a minimum of six  
20 continuous years; or 3) United States public health service  
21 commissioned corps or the national oceanic and atmospheric  
22 administration commissioned officer corps and served in the  
23 capacity of a commissioned officer while on active duty in  
24 defense of the United States; and

25 (b) was not separated from such service

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under circumstances amounting to dishonorable discharge."

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