

As Introduced

**136th General Assembly
Regular Session
2025-2026**

S. B. No. 223

Senator Patton

To amend section 1546.04 of the Revised Code to 1
require the ODNR Chief of the Division of Parks 2
and Watercraft to establish a discount program 3
for veterans and service members for park 4
services and rentals. 5

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 1546.04 of the Revised Code be 6
amended to read as follows: 7

Sec. 1546.04. (A) Except as provided in this section, the 8
chief of the division of parks and watercraft, with the approval 9
of the director of natural resources, shall adopt rules in 10
accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code that are 11
necessary for the proper management of state parks, bodies of 12
water, and the lands adjacent to them under its jurisdiction and 13
control, including rules: 14

(1) Governing opening and closing times and dates of state 15
parks; 16

(2) Establishing fees and charges for use of facilities in 17
state parks; 18

(3) Governing camps, camping, and fees for camps and 19
camping; 20

(4) Governing the application for and rental of, rental fees for, and the use of cottages;	21 22
(5) Relating to public use of state park lands, and governing the operation of motor vehicles, including speeds and parking on those lands;	23 24 25
(6) Governing all advertising within state parks and requirements for the operation of places selling tangible personal property and food service sales on lands and waters under the control of the division. The rules shall establish uniform requirements for those operations and sales.	26 27 28 29 30
(7) Providing uniform standards relating to the size, type, location, construction, and maintenance of structures and devices used for fishing or moorage of watercraft, rowboats, sailboats, and powercraft over waters under the control of the division and establishing reasonable fees for the construction of, and annual use permits for, those structures and devices;	31 32 33 34 35 36
(8) Governing state beaches, swimming, inflatable devices, and fees for them;	37 38
(9) Governing the removal and disposition of any watercraft, rowboat, sailboat, or powercraft left unattended for more than seven days on any lands or waters under the control of the division;	39 40 41 42
(10) Governing the establishment and collection of check collection charges for checks that are returned to the division or dishonored for any reason;	43 44 45
(11) Governing natural resources officers in all parks and bodies of water and lands adjacent to those bodies under the supervision and control of the division as are necessary to the proper management of such parks and bodies of water.	46 47 48 49

~~(B)~~ (B) (1) The chief shall adopt rules in accordance with 50
Chapter 119. of the Revised Code establishing a discount program 51
for all persons who are issued a golden buckeye card under 52
section 173.06 of the Revised Code. The discount program shall 53
provide a discount for all park services and rentals, but shall 54
not provide a discount for the purchase of merchandise. 55

(2) The chief also shall adopt rules in accordance with 56
Chapter 119. of the Revised Code establishing a discount program 57
for all veterans and service members who present, in a manner 58
determined by the chief, a valid form of documentation. The 59
discount program shall provide a twenty-five per cent discount 60
for all park services and rentals but shall not provide a 61
discount for the purchase of merchandise. 62

(3) As used in division (B) (2) of this section: 63

(a) "Veteran" and "service member" have the same meanings 64
as in section 5903.01 of the Revised Code. 65

(b) "Valid form of documentation" means any of the 66
following: 67

(i) An Ohio veterans identification card issued under 68
section 317.241 of the Revised Code; 69

(ii) A United States department of defense authorized 70
common access card; 71

(iii) A United States department of defense uniformed 72
services identification and privilege card DD form 1173; 73

(iv) A United States department of defense issued next 74
generation USID card; 75

(v) A military annual pass or military lifetime pass 76
version of the national parks and federal recreational lands 77

pass. 78

(C) The chief, with the approval of the director of 79
natural resources, may adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 80
119. of the Revised Code that establish all of the following: 81

(1) Requirements governing the administration of state 82
parks; 83

(2) Requirements considered necessary by the chief to 84
supplement the identification, operation, titling, use, 85
registration, and numbering of watercraft or vessels as provided 86
in Chapters 1547. and 1548. of the Revised Code; 87

(3) Requirements governing the navigation of vessels on 88
waters in this state, including rules regarding steering and 89
sailing, the conduct of vessels in sight of one another or in 90
restricted visibility, lights and shapes of lights used on 91
vessels, and sound and light signals. As the chief considers 92
necessary, the chief shall ensure that those rules are 93
consistent with and equivalent to the regulations and 94
interpretive rulings governing inland waters adopted or issued 95
under the "Inland Navigational Rules Act of 1980," 94 Stat. 96
3415, 33 U.S.C. 151, 1604, 1605, 1608, 2001 to 2008, and 2071 to 97
2073. 98

(4) Requirements and procedures governing vessel safety 99
inspection checkpoints, including procedures that comply with 100
statutory and constitutional provisions governing searches and 101
seizures by law enforcement officers; 102

(5) Fees and charges for all of the following: 103

(a) Boating skill development classes and other 104
educational classes; 105

(b) Law enforcement services provided at special events	106
when the services are in addition to normal enforcement duties;	107
(c) Inspections of vessels or motors conducted under	108
Chapter 1547. or Chapter 1548. of the Revised Code.	109
(D) The chief shall not adopt rules under this section	110
establishing fees or charges for parking a motor vehicle in a	111
state park or for admission to a state park.	112
Section 2. That existing section 1546.04 of the Revised	113
Code is hereby repealed.	114