

**As Reported by the Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Public
Safety Committee**

136th General Assembly

**Regular Session
2025-2026**

Am. S. B. No. 223

Senator Patton

Cosponsor: Senator Johnson

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 camping;	19 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	46

bodies of water and lands adjacent to those bodies under the 47
supervision and control of the division as are necessary to the 48
proper management of such parks and bodies of water. 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

<u>generation USID card;</u>	75
<u>(v) A military annual pass or military lifetime pass</u>	76
<u>version of the national parks and federal recreational lands</u>	77
<u>pass;</u>	78
<u>(vi) A veteran health identification card issued by the</u>	79
<u>United States department of veterans affairs.</u>	80
(C) The chief, with the approval of the director of	81
natural resources, may adopt rules in accordance with Chapter	82
119. of the Revised Code that establish all of the following:	83
(1) Requirements governing the administration of state	84
parks;	85
(2) Requirements considered necessary by the chief to	86
supplement the identification, operation, titling, use,	87
registration, and numbering of watercraft or vessels as provided	88
in Chapters 1547. and 1548. of the Revised Code;	89
(3) Requirements governing the navigation of vessels on	90
waters in this state, including rules regarding steering and	91
sailing, the conduct of vessels in sight of one another or in	92
restricted visibility, lights and shapes of lights used on	93
vessels, and sound and light signals. As the chief considers	94
necessary, the chief shall ensure that those rules are	95
consistent with and equivalent to the regulations and	96
interpretive rulings governing inland waters adopted or issued	97
under the "Inland Navigational Rules Act of 1980," 94 Stat.	98
3415, 33 U.S.C. 151, 1604, 1605, 1608, 2001 to 2008, and 2071 to	99
2073.	100
(4) Requirements and procedures governing vessel safety	101
inspection checkpoints, including procedures that comply with	102
statutory and constitutional provisions governing searches and	103

seizures by law enforcement officers;	104
(5) Fees and charges for all of the following:	105
(a) Boating skill development classes and other educational classes;	106 107
(b) Law enforcement services provided at special events when the services are in addition to normal enforcement duties;	108 109
(c) Inspections of vessels or motors conducted under Chapter 1547. or Chapter 1548. of the Revised Code.	110 111
(D) The chief shall not adopt rules under this section establishing fees or charges for parking a motor vehicle in a state park or for admission to a state park.	112 113 114
Section 2. That existing section 1546.04 of the Revised Code is hereby repealed.	115 116