

**As Reported by the House Natural Resources Committee**

**136th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2025-2026**

**Am. S. B. No. 223**

**Senator Patton**

**Cosponsors: Senators Johnson, Antonio, Blackshear, Brenner, Chavez, Cirino, Craig, DeMora, Gavarone, Hicks-Hudson, Ingram, Landis, Lang, Liston, O'Brien, Reineke, Roegner, Romanchuk, Schaffer, Smith, Timken, Weinstein, Wilson**

**Representatives Robb Blasdel, Fischer, Rogers, Hiner, Mathews, T., McNally**

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

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

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

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

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

(2) Establishing fees and charges for use of facilities in state parks;	17 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	43 44

or dishonored for any reason; 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

<u>services identification and privilege card DD form 1173;</u>	73
<u>(iv) A United States department of defense issued next</u>	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	106
educational classes;	107
(b) Law enforcement services provided at special events	108
when the services are in addition to normal enforcement duties;	109
(c) Inspections of vessels or motors conducted under	110
Chapter 1547. or Chapter 1548. of the Revised Code.	111
(D) The chief shall not adopt rules under this section	112
establishing fees or charges for parking a motor vehicle in a	113
state park or for admission to a state park.	114
<b>Section 2.</b> That existing section 1546.04 of the Revised	115
Code is hereby repealed.	116