

**First Regular Session
Sixty-eighth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 11-0096.01 Chuck Brackney

SENATE BILL 11-024

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

King K.,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Looper,

Senate Committees
State, Veterans & Military Affairs

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING FREE STATE PARKS ADMISSION FOR VETERANS, AND, IN**
102 **CONNECTION THEREWITH, ESTABLISHING FREE ADMISSION ON**
103 **A SPECIFIED DAY EACH YEAR FOR VETERANS AND FREE STATE**
104 **PARKS ADMISSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES**
105 **ARMED SERVICES WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAMS WHO HAVE**
106 **SUSTAINED SEVERE COMBAT-RELATED INJURIES WHILE SERVING**
107 **IN POST-SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY**
108 **OPERATIONS.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/bills/summaries>.)

The bill allows service members who have been wounded in Afghanistan or Iraq free admission to Colorado state parks and allows a free day of admission for all veterans for one day of each year.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. 33-12-106, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended
BY THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING NEW SUBSECTIONS to
read:

33-12-106. Park entrance privileges - identified veterans - wounded warriors - search and rescue organizations conducting training activities - legislative declaration - rules. (2.3) THE BOARD MAY PROMULGATE RULES TO ALLOW FREE ENTRANCE TO ANY STATE PARK OR RECREATION AREA, NOT TO INCLUDE CAMPGROUNDS, YURTS, OR OTHER AMENITIES AND SERVICES OFFERED, FOR VETERANS ON ONE DAY EACH YEAR. THE BOARD MAY DETERMINE BY RULE WHICH DAY VETERANS ARE ALLOWED FREE ENTRANCE TO STATE PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS.

(2.7) (a) (I) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY FINDS, DETERMINES, AND DECLARES THAT:

(A) SERVICE MEMBERS RETURNING FROM POST-SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS WHO HAVE BEEN INJURED DURING COMBAT FACE A CHALLENGING PERIOD OF REHABILITATION UPON THEIR RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES;

(B) MANY OF THESE SERVICE MEMBERS ARE SO SEVERELY INJURED THAT THEY REQUIRE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR MANY YEARS, OR EVEN THE REST OF THEIR LIVES, AS THEY REENTER MAINSTREAM LIFE;

(C) ALTHOUGH THE SCOPE OF CARE PROVIDED BY THE UNITED

1 STATES ARMED SERVICES WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAMS VARIES WITH
2 EACH SERVICE MEMBER, BASED ON THE NEEDS OF THE INDIVIDUAL, THESE
3 SERVICE MEMBERS MAY BE ASSIGNED, UPON RETURN TO COLORADO, TO A
4 MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITY SUCH AS EVANS ARMY HOSPITAL AT FORT
5 CARSON, COLORADO;

6 (D) WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAMS ARE DIRECT EFFORTS BY THE
7 UNITED STATES ARMED SERVICES TO CARE FOR SERVICE MEMBERS DURING
8 THEIR LONG TRANSITION FROM COMBAT-RELATED INJURY TO CIVILIAN LIFE
9 AND TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THOSE SERVICE MEMBERS IN RECOVERY,
10 REHABILITATION, AND REINTEGRATION THAT IS WORTHY OF THEIR SERVICE
11 AND SACRIFICE; AND

12 (E) FOR THOSE WOUNDED WARRIORS WHO SUFFER INJURIES SO
13 SEVERE THAT THEY WILL REQUIRE INTENSE, ONGOING CARE OR
14 ASSISTANCE FOR MANY YEARS OR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES, A SIGNIFICANT
15 PART OF THE HEALING PROCESS IS ENABLING AND ENCOURAGING THESE
16 SERVICE MEMBERS TO EXPERIENCE SOME OF THE OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL
17 ACTIVITIES THEY ENJOYED PRIOR TO THEIR SERVICE-RELATED INJURIES.

18 (II) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THEREFORE RECOGNIZES THE NEED
19 TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLORADO'S SEVERELY INJURED
20 "WOUNDED WARRIORS" TO ENJOY THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE STATE
21 AS PART OF THEIR REHABILITATIVE CARE. FURTHERMORE, OFFERING FREE
22 ENTRANCE TO STATE PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS TO SUCH
23 RECOVERING SERVICE MEMBERS IS A SMALL, BUT RECOGNIZABLE,
24 ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THEIR SELFLESS SERVICE AND SACRIFICE.

25 (b) THE BOARD MAY PROMULGATE RULES TO ALLOW FREE
26 ENTRANCE TO ANY STATE PARK OR RECREATION AREA, NOT TO INCLUDE
27 CAMPGROUNDS, YURTS, OR OTHER AMENITIES OR SERVICES OFFERED, FOR

1 PARTICIPANTS IN THE UNITED STATES ARMED SERVICES WOUNDED
2 WARRIOR PROGRAMS WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF, OR STATIONED IN,
3 COLORADO. ANY SUCH RULES MUST ALSO ALLOW FOR FREE ADMISSION OF
4 PERSONS ACCOMPANYING THE WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM PARTICIPANT
5 IN THE SAME VEHICLE.

6 (c) AS USED IN THIS SUBSECTION (2.7), "UNITED STATES ARMED
7 SERVICES WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAMS" MEANS:

- 8 (I) THE ARMY WOUNDED WARRIOR (AW2) PROGRAM;
- 9 (II) THE AIR FORCE WOUNDED WARRIOR (AFW2) PROGRAM;
- 10 (III) THE NAVY SAFE HARBOR PROGRAM;
- 11 (IV) THE COAST GUARD WOUNDED WARRIOR REGIMENT; AND
- 12 (V) ANY SUCCESSOR PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY A BRANCH OF
13 THE UNITED STATES ARMED SERVICES TO PROVIDE INDIVIDUALIZED
14 SUPPORT FOR SERVICE MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN SEVERELY INJURED IN
15 OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS UNDERTAKEN SINCE SEPTEMBER
16 11, 2001.

17 **SECTION 2. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
18 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
19 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.