**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**H. 4297**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Gilliam, Hart, Yow, Hardee, Beach, Pace, Mitchell, Taylor, Rankin, Oremus, T. Moore, Caskey, Chapman, Atkinson, B.L. Cox, Holman, Cromer, Bailey, May, Edgerton, McCravy, Morgan, Pope, Gibson, Burns, Bernstein, Sessions, Hayes, Long and Wooten

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Introduced in the House on April 3, 2025

Currently residing in the House Committee on **Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs**

Summary: State park admissions

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 4/3/2025 House Introduced and read first time (House Journal‑page 19)

 4/3/2025 House Referred to Committee on **Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs** (House Journal‑page 19)

View the latest  [legislative information](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/billsearch.php?billnumbers=4297&session=126&summary=B)  at the website

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[04/03/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/4297_20250403.docx)

A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 51‑3‑60, RELATING TO USE OF STATE PARK FACILITIES FREE OF CHARGE, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT immediate GOLD STAR family MEMBERS MAY ENTER ANY STATE PARK WITHOUT CHARGE.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 51‑3‑60 of the S.C. Code is amended to read:

 Section 51‑3‑60. Any South Carolina resident who is over sixty‑five years of age or disabled or legally blind as defined in Section 43‑25‑20 of the 1976 Code may use any facility of a state park except campsites, overnight lodging and recreation buildings without charge. Such residents may also use campsite facilities at one‑half of the prescribed fee. A person exercising this privilege on the basis of age shall present his medicare card or other card approved by the South Carolina Commission on Aging to the employee of the State Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism who is in charge of the particular state park, and a person who is disabled or legally blind shall present to such person in charge of the park a certificate to that effect from a licensed doctor of medicine or an official of an agency authorized by law to make determinations of disability or blindness. The authorization for use of the facilities as provided by this section shall not be effective if it conflicts with any federal law, rule or regulation.

 The term “disabled” as used herein shall mean the inability to perform substantial gainful employment by reason of a medically‑determinable impairment, either physical or mental, which has lasted or is expected to last for a continuous period of twelve months or more.

 Any South Carolina resident who is a veteran and who has been classified by the Veterans Administration as permanently and totally disabled may also enter any state park without charge upon presentation to the person in charge of the park of an identification card from the county veterans affairs officer stating the veteran’s permanent and total disability. A statement of age or disability may not be made for any person whose age and disability records are not maintained in the veterans affairs office at which the request is made.

 Any South Carolina resident who is an immediate Gold Star Family member, as classified by the United States Department of Defense, also may enter any state park without charge.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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