

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

State parks-user fee program.

Sponsored by: Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and
Cultural Resources Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to state parks; providing for user fees to
2 be collected at the time of vehicle registrations;
3 providing for a waiver of the additional fee; providing for
4 distribution and use of additional fee; eliminating
5 collection of daily use fees at state parks, historic
6 sites, state recreation areas and state archeological sites
7 for Wyoming residents; and providing for an effective date.

8

9 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

10

11 **Section 1.** W.S. 31-3-101(a) by creating a new
12 paragraph (iii), 31-3-103 by creating a new subsection (m)

1 and 36-4-121(a) by creating a new paragraph (xvii) are
2 amended to read:

3
4 **31-3-101. Registration fees; exemptions.**

5
6 (a) Except as otherwise provided, the following fees
7 shall accompany each application for the registration of a
8 vehicle:

9
10 (iii) A state parks, historic sites, recreation
11 area and archeological site user fee of five dollars
12 (\$5.00) shall be collected for all passenger cars
13 registering under paragraph (ii)(A) of this subsection and
14 non commercial vehicles registering under paragraph (ii)(E)
15 of this subsection at the time of registration. A person
16 who registers such a vehicle may, at the time of annual
17 registration make a written election not to pay the five
18 dollars (\$5.00) state parks user fee authorized under this
19 paragraph. If a written election is made, the fee required
20 in this paragraph shall not be collected.

21
22 **31-3-103. Distribution of fees; refunds.**

1 (m) The fees collected pursuant to W.S. 31-3-
2 101(a)(iii) shall be distributed to a special revenue fund
3 to be deposited as follows:

4
5 (i) Fifty percent (50%) shall be deposited in an
6 operation and maintenance account within the special
7 revenue fund for purposes of providing for operation and
8 maintenance at state parks, recreation areas,
9 archaeological sites and historic sites; and

10
11 (ii) Fifty percent (50%) shall be deposited in
12 the capital construction account created by W.S. 36-4-
13 121(h).

14
15 **36-4-121. Permits to use state parks, recreation**
16 **areas and historic sites.**

17
18 (a) The department of state parks and cultural
19 resources shall offer for sale permits that allow use of
20 the state parks, recreation areas, archeological sites and
21 historic sites. Except as otherwise provided by law, daily
22 use permits shall be required at Glendo, Guernsey, Curt
23 Gowdy, Edness Kimball Wilkins, Buffalo Bill, Boysen,

1 Seminoe and Keyhole state parks and Fort Bridger, South
2 Pass City, Trail End, Fort Fetterman and Fort Phil Kearney
3 state historic sites, and Hawk Springs state recreation
4 area. The department may establish voluntary pay stations
5 at Bear River and Hot Springs state parks to allow users of
6 those parks to make voluntary contributions for the use of
7 the state parks. Persons who enter or use Bear River or Hot
8 Springs state park without paying daily use fees shall not
9 be subject to the penalties provided for in subsection (j)
10 of this section. Overnight camping permits shall be
11 required at Boysen, Buffalo Bill, Curt Gowdy, Glendo,
12 Guernsey, Keyhole, Seminoe and Sinks Canyon state parks,
13 Connor Battlefield and Fort Fetterman state historic ~~site~~
14 sites, Medicine Lodge state archeological site and Hawk
15 Springs state recreation area by the department during the
16 entire calendar year. Except for the lifetime permit issued
17 without cost pursuant to subsection (n) of this section or
18 as otherwise provided by law, the cost of the permits
19 authorized under this section shall be:

20

21 (i) ~~Thirty three dollars (\$33.00) per calendar~~
22 ~~year for a resident annual daily use permit and Fifty-three~~
23 dollars (\$53.00) for a nonresident annual daily use permit

1 to designated state parks, historic sites, archeological
2 sites and recreation areas, valid for the holder and
3 occupants of the holder's vehicle, provided ~~resident~~
4 ~~permits purchased pursuant to this paragraph between~~
5 ~~January 1 through February 15 of each year shall cost~~
6 ~~twenty-seven dollars (\$27.00) and~~ nonresident permits
7 purchased ~~during the same period~~ pursuant to this paragraph
8 between January 1 through February 15 of each year shall
9 cost forty-six dollars (\$46.00);

10
11 (iii) Except as provided under paragraph (a)(v)
12 of this section, ~~four dollars (\$4.00) for residents and~~ six
13 dollars (\$6.00) for nonresidents for the daily use fee for
14 designated state parks, archeological sites and recreation
15 areas, valid for the date of purchase for the holder and
16 occupants of the holder's vehicle and for the holder
17 entering the park or area by bicycle, horseback or on foot;

18
19 (iv) Except as provided under paragraph (a)(v)
20 of this section, ~~two dollars (\$2.00) per person for~~
21 ~~residents and~~ four dollars (\$4.00) per person for
22 nonresidents for the daily use fee for designated state
23 historic sites, valid for the date of purchase for the

1 holder only. The fee is not required for persons under the
2 age of eighteen (18) years;

3
4 (xvii) Residents shall not be required to pay a
5 daily use fee for access to state parks, historic sites,
6 recreation areas or archeological sites. Other fees for
7 the use of state parks, such as overnight camping fees, are
8 still chargeable and may be collected by the department.

9
10 (h) The funds received by the department from the
11 sale of the permits under this section and received
12 pursuant to W.S. 31-3-103(m)(ii) shall be deposited in a
13 capital construction account and may be expended by the
14 department for capital construction projects, major
15 maintenance, ~~and~~ site interpretation such as exhibits,
16 signage and displays and for the administration of the fee
17 program including the cost of purchasing permits, fee
18 envelopes, signs and administering reservations as approved
19 by the legislature.

20
21 (n) Any resident disabled veteran who receives fifty
22 percent (50%) or more service connected disability
23 compensation from the United States department of veteran's

1 affairs may apply to the department for a lifetime permit
2 authorizing the use of state parks, recreation areas,
3 archeological sites and historic sites without payment of
4 any ~~daily use,~~ overnight camping or other fee authorized to
5 be charged pursuant to this section. Only one (1) permit
6 shall be issued to any qualified applicant under this
7 subsection and shall be valid for the applicant and for all
8 occupants of the applicant's vehicle. In addition to
9 information and other application procedural requirements
10 prescribed by rule and regulation of the department,
11 application for the lifetime permit shall include proof of
12 residency and certification of the service connected
13 disability. The lifetime permit is valid as long as the
14 holder is a Wyoming resident. A permit under this
15 subsection shall be issued to an eligible applicant without
16 the imposition of a fee.

17

18 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2011.

19

20

(END)