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SENATE BILL 164

SPONSOR STATEMENT

State Park Permits For Disabled Veterans

I am excited to introduce Senate Bill 164, which will allow disabled veterans who have honorably served our country to have a lifetime of access to our state parks free of charge. This bill will allow them to apply for a lifetime pass to Alaska State Parks and waive the fees. They will have access to developed campsites and parking. I believe that those who have served their nation in the military deserve the utmost respect and have earned the right to enjoy the beauty of our great state that they have defended and sacrificed for.

As it currently stands, disabled veterans do qualify for a free pass, however it is set in statute as an annual pass system. By moving it to a lifetime pass, it will be a simpler system for our veterans to take advantage of the opportunities presented to them. In addition, there is currently no provision for them to be able to park during the day if they simply want to enjoy the beautiful sights around our great state. This bill will provide for greater access to our parks if they simply want to sit and enjoy the view or take a hike through some beautiful country.

I respectfully ask for your support of this legislation for the benefit of our disabled veterans. They deserve our respect and access to the beauty of our great State.