

**HB**

**345**

Representative

Representative  
**HUGH "BUD" FATE**  
Finance Committee

Energy Council- Executive Committee  
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## Alaska State Legislature



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House District 7

### House of Representatives

To: Representative Nancy Dahistrom -Co-Chair, House Resources Committee  
Fm: Jim Pound, Chief of Staff  
Cc: Representative Beverly Masek  
Date: January 27, 2004  
Re: HB 345 "CAMPSITE FEES: DISABLED VETERANS/SENIORS"

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Please accept this memo and attached documents as a request for the House Resources Committee to schedule for hearing House Bill 345 "CAMPSITE FEES: DISABLED VETERANS/SENIORS."

The bill will allow Alaska Resident Senior Citizens and Disabled Veterans to use State Park developed Campsites for a one-time annual fee of \$10.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 345.

Attached: Sponsor Statement, HB 345, Current statutory language

Representative  
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Council

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#### Sponsor Statement for HB 345

**"An act relating to fees for state park developed campsites; and providing for an effective date."**

House Bill 345 adds and deletes language from existing statute (AS 41.21.026 (d)) to give senior citizens and disabled veterans a developed campsite in non-urban Alaska state parks for a fee of \$10 annually.

Non-urban campsites are those that do not fall within or immediately adjacent to an urban city.

Currently, senior citizens are required to pay a \$100 annual fee in order to camp in Alaska's state parks.

HB 345 provides an incentive for disabled veterans and seniors that are Alaska state residents to travel throughout the state for a discounted price.

Through House Bill 345, the department will be required to provide a season pass for use by a disabled veteran or senior citizen when applying for a permit under this section. HB 345 also requires the department to prepare a report on the number of permits issued to disabled veterans and senior citizens during the previous calendar year and notify the legislature that the report is available.

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### House of Representatives Memorandum

To: Representative Nancy Dahlstrom  
Fm: Jim Pound  
Cc: Representative Beverly Masek  
Date: January 27, 2004  
Re: Amendments to HB 345

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We would like to propose two associated amendments to HB 345 having to do with campsite location. In the urban areas of Alaska private campsites are often available. It is somewhat unfair for the State to compete directly with these private for profit companies.

Therefore:

Amendment 1 for HB 345

Page 1, Line 9 add the word "non-urban"

The permit shall allow a disabled veteran or senior citizen to use a non-urban state park....

Amendment 2 for HB 345

\*Sec. 2 (f) In this section "non-urban" is defined as a state park developed campsite located outside of a ten-mile radius of a city center.

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Sec. 41.21.026. Fees for the use of state park system facilities.

(a) Notwithstanding (b) of this section, the department may charge or collect a fee in a park unit for

- (1) rental of public use cabins or other overnight lodgings;
- (2) overnight use of a developed campsite;
- (3) special park use permits;
- (4) competitive and exclusive commercial use permits;
- (5) noncompetitive and nonexclusive commercial use permits;
- (6) use of a sewage holding tank dump station;
- (7) admission to or guided tours of visitor centers and historic sites;
- (8) use of an improved boat ramp in a park facility developed principally for boat launching;
- (9) sale of firewood;
- (10) sale of merchandise for informational or educational purposes related to public use and understanding of parks, including maps, plans, and other graphic materials;
- (11) use of a developed facility that has developed parking and rest rooms; and
- (12) presentation or attendance at programs related to natural or cultural history, outdoor skills or education, or other topics concerned with public use, enjoyment, or understanding of parks.

(b) The department may not charge or collect a fee for an ordinary use of a park unit or the use of a restroom in a park unit.

(c) The department shall establish the fees that may be charged or collected under (a) of this section by regulation. Before setting the fees, the department shall consider at public hearings

- (1) the cost to the state of operating the facility or managing the activity;
- (2) the normal fees charged for similar facilities or activities by governmental and nongovernmental entities;
- (3) the cost of administering a fee collection program for the facility or activity; and
- (4) the public interest.

(d) The department shall issue free of charge to disabled veterans of this country an annual state park developed campsite permit. The permit shall allow a disabled veteran to use a state park developed campsite for personal recreation use without a charge or fee under (a)(2) of this section. While utilizing a developed campsite without charge under this subsection, the disabled veteran shall comply with all other statutes or regulations pertaining to the use of the developed campsite. The department shall provide a form for use by a disabled veteran when applying for a permit under this section. Not later than February 1 of each year, the department shall prepare a report on the number of permits issued to disabled veterans under this subsection during the previous calendar year and notify the legislature that the report is available.

(e) In this section, "developed campsite" means a campsite having access to the following public facilities:

- (1) restrooms;
- (2) a picnic table;
- (3) an outdoor cooking facility; and
- (4) an approved water source.