

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT  
**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5390**

69th Legislature  
2025 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate April 24, 2025  
Yeas 27 Nays 21

---

**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 22, 2025  
Yeas 52 Nays 46

---

**Speaker of the House of  
Representatives**

Approved

---

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5390** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

---

**Secretary**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

---

**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5390**

---

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2025 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      69th Legislature                      2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Stanford and Nobles)

READ FIRST TIME 02/28/25.

1            AN ACT Relating to access to a recreation site or lands; amending  
2 RCW 79A.80.020, 79A.80.090, 79A.80.080, and 79A.05.065; adding a new  
3 section to chapter 79A.25 RCW; creating a new section; providing an  
4 effective date; and providing an expiration date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    The legislature finds that both visitors  
7 and residents of Washington state enjoy the opportunity to recreate  
8 and experience the beauty of state-owned public lands, like state  
9 parks. The legislature also finds that the costs to provide access to  
10 these lands has been successfully supported by user-based recreation  
11 fees and that the costs of continued support and access has outpaced  
12 the revenue generated by fees. The discover pass and day-use permits  
13 that are used to gain access to state-owned lands have been in place  
14 since 2011, and the cost for the discover pass and permits has not  
15 changed since then. However, the costs to maintain recreational  
16 access have steadily increased. The original legislation anticipated  
17 the potential need to consider adjustment in the cost of both the  
18 discover pass and day-use permits. The legislature intends to  
19 maintain recreational access for all by updating the cost of the  
20 discover pass commensurate with the inflationary costs to carry out  
21 state recreational programs.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 79A.80.020 and 2017 c 121 s 1 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a discover pass  
4 is required for any motor vehicle to:

5       (a) Park at any recreation site or lands; or

6       (b) Operate on any recreation site or lands.

7       (2) Except as provided in RCW 79A.80.110, the cost of a discover  
8 pass is (~~(thirty dollars)~~) \$45. Every four years the office of  
9 financial management must review the cost of the discover pass and,  
10 if necessary, recommend to the legislature an adjustment to the cost  
11 of the discover pass to account for inflation.

12       (3) A discover pass is valid for one year beginning from the date  
13 that the discover pass is marked for activation. The activation date  
14 may differ from the purchase date pursuant to any policies developed  
15 by the agencies.

16       (4) Sales of discover passes must be consistent with RCW  
17 79A.80.100.

18       (5) The discover pass must contain space for two motor vehicle  
19 license plate numbers. A discover pass is valid only for those  
20 vehicle license plate numbers written on the pass. However, the  
21 agencies may offer for sale a family discover pass that is fully  
22 transferable among vehicles and does not require the placement of a  
23 license plate number on the pass to be valid. The agencies must  
24 collectively set a price for the sale of a family discover pass that  
25 is no more than (~~(fifty dollars)~~) \$50. A discover pass is valid only  
26 for use with one motor vehicle at any one time.

27       (6)(a) One complimentary discover pass must be provided to a  
28 volunteer who performed (~~(twenty-four)~~) 24 hours of service on  
29 agency-sanctioned volunteer projects in a year. The agency must  
30 provide vouchers to volunteers identifying the number of volunteer  
31 hours they have provided for each project. The vouchers may be  
32 brought to an agency to be redeemed for a discover pass.

33       (b) Married spouses under chapter 26.04 RCW may present an agency  
34 with combined vouchers demonstrating the collective performance of  
35 (~~(twenty-four)~~) 24 hours of service on agency-sanctioned volunteer  
36 projects in a year to be redeemed for a single complimentary discover  
37 pass.

38       (7) A lifetime disabled veteran pass issued under RCW  
39 79A.05.065(3) is the equivalent of a discover pass for purposes of

1 this chapter, as long as the person to whom the pass was issued is a  
2 driver or passenger in the vehicle when accessing a site or lands.

3 **Sec. 3.** RCW 79A.80.090 and 2020 c 148 s 27 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 (1) The recreation access pass account is created in the state  
6 treasury. All moneys received from the sale of discover passes and  
7 day-use permits must be deposited into the account.

8 (2) Each fiscal biennium, the first (~~seventy-one million~~  
9 ~~dollars~~) \$85,000,000 in revenue must be distributed to the agencies  
10 in the following manner:

11 (a) Eight percent to the department of fish and wildlife and  
12 deposited into the limited fish and wildlife account created in RCW  
13 77.12.170(1);

14 (b) Eight percent to the department of natural resources and  
15 deposited into the parkland trust revolving fund created in RCW  
16 43.30.385;

17 (c) Eighty-four percent to the state parks and recreation  
18 commission and deposited into the state parks renewal and stewardship  
19 account created in RCW 79A.05.215;

20 (d) During the 2015-2017 fiscal biennium, expenditures from the  
21 recreation access pass account may be used for Skamania county court  
22 costs. During the 2015-2017 and 2017-2019 fiscal biennia,  
23 expenditures from the recreation access pass account may be used for  
24 the state parks and recreation commission, in partnership with the  
25 departments of fish and wildlife and natural resources, to develop  
26 options and recommendations to improve recreational access fee  
27 systems.

28 (3) Each fiscal biennium, revenues in excess of (~~seventy-one~~  
29 ~~million dollars~~) \$85,000,000 must be distributed equally among the  
30 agencies to the accounts identified in subsection (2) of this  
31 section.

32 **Sec. 4.** RCW 79A.80.080 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 15 s 3 are each  
33 amended to read as follows:

34 (1) A discover pass, vehicle access pass, lifetime disabled  
35 veteran pass, or day-use permit must be visibly displayed in the  
36 front windshield, or otherwise in a prominent location for motor  
37 vehicles without a windshield, of any motor vehicle:

38 (a) Operating on any recreation site or lands; or

1 (b) Parking at any recreation site or lands.

2 (2) The discover pass, the vehicle access pass, lifetime disabled  
3 veteran pass, or the day-use permit is not required:

4 (a) On private lands, state-owned aquatic lands other than water  
5 access areas, or at agency offices, hatcheries, or other facilities  
6 where public business is conducted;

7 (b) For persons who use, possess, or enter lands owned or managed  
8 by the agencies for nonrecreational purposes consistent with a  
9 written authorization from the agency, including but not limited to  
10 leases, contracts, and easements;

11 (c) On department of fish and wildlife lands only, for persons  
12 possessing a current vehicle access pass pursuant to RCW 79A.80.040;  
13 ((~~or~~))

14 (d) When operating on a road managed by the department of natural  
15 resources or the department of fish and wildlife, including a forest  
16 or land management road, that is not blocked by a gate; or

17 (e) For motor vehicles used for off-road recreation that have  
18 been transported to a recreation site or lands managed for off-road  
19 recreation by another motor vehicle that: (i) Remains parked at the  
20 recreation site or lands; and (ii) displays a pass or permit  
21 consistent with the requirements of this chapter.

22 (3) (a) An agency may waive the requirements of this section for  
23 any person who has secured the ability to access specific  
24 recreational land through the provision of monetary consideration to  
25 the agency or for any person attending an event or function that  
26 required the provision of monetary compensation to the agency.

27 (b) Special events and group activities are core recreational  
28 activities and major public service opportunities within state parks.  
29 When waiving the requirements of this section for special events, the  
30 state parks and recreation commission must consider the direct and  
31 indirect costs and benefits to the state, local market rental rates,  
32 the public service functions of the event sponsor, and other public  
33 interest factors when setting appropriate fees for each event or  
34 activity.

35 (4) Failure to comply with subsection (1) of this section is a  
36 natural resource infraction under chapter 7.84 RCW. An agency is  
37 authorized to issue a notice of infraction to any person who fails to  
38 comply with subsection (1)(a) of this section or to any motor vehicle  
39 that fails to comply with subsection (1)(b) of this section.

1 (5) The penalty for failure to comply with the requirements of  
2 this section is (~~ninety-nine dollars~~) \$99. This penalty must be  
3 reduced to (~~fifty-nine dollars~~) \$59 if an individual provides,  
4 within 15 days after the issuance of the notice of violation, proof  
5 of purchase of a discover pass to the court (~~within fifteen days~~  
6 ~~after the issuance of the notice of violation~~) or evidence that the  
7 individual has obtained a lifetime disabled veteran pass under RCW  
8 79A.05.065(3).

9 **Sec. 5.** RCW 79A.05.065 and 2011 c 171 s 115 are each amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 (1)(a) The commission shall grant to any person who meets the  
12 eligibility requirements specified in this section a senior citizen's  
13 pass which shall: (i) Entitle such a person, and members of his or  
14 her camping unit, to a (~~fifty~~) 50 percent reduction in the campsite  
15 rental fee prescribed by the commission; and (ii) entitle such a  
16 person to free admission to any state park.

17 (b) The commission shall grant a senior citizen's pass to any  
18 person who applies for the senior citizen's pass and who meets the  
19 following requirements:

20 (i) The person is at least (~~sixty-two~~) 62 years of age;

21 (ii) The person is a domiciliary of the state of Washington and  
22 meets reasonable residency requirements prescribed by the commission;  
23 and

24 (iii) The person and his or her spouse have a combined income  
25 that would qualify the person for a property tax exemption pursuant  
26 to RCW 84.36.381. The financial eligibility requirements of this  
27 subsection (1)(b)(iii) apply regardless of whether the applicant for  
28 a senior citizen's pass owns taxable property or has obtained or  
29 applied for such property tax exemption.

30 (c) Each senior citizen's pass granted pursuant to this section  
31 is valid as long as the senior citizen meets the requirements of  
32 (b)(ii) of this subsection. A senior citizen meeting the eligibility  
33 requirements of this section may make a voluntary donation for the  
34 upkeep and maintenance of state parks.

35 (d) A holder of a senior citizen's pass shall surrender the pass  
36 upon request of a commission employee when the employee has reason to  
37 believe the holder fails to meet the criteria in (b) of this  
38 subsection. The holder shall have the pass returned upon providing

1 proof to the satisfaction of the director that the holder meets the  
2 eligibility criteria for obtaining the senior citizen's pass.

3 (2) (a) Any resident of Washington who is disabled as defined by  
4 the social security administration and who receives social security  
5 benefits for that disability, or any other benefits for that  
6 disability from any other governmental or nongovernmental source, or  
7 who is entitled to benefits for permanent disability under RCW  
8 71A.10.020(~~((3))~~) (6) due to unemployability full time at the minimum  
9 wage, or who is legally blind or profoundly deaf, or who has been  
10 issued a card, decal, or special license plate for a permanent  
11 disability under RCW 46.19.010 shall be entitled to receive,  
12 regardless of age and upon making application therefor, a disability  
13 pass at no cost to the holder. The pass shall: (i) Entitle such a  
14 person, and members of his or her camping unit, to a (~~((fifty))~~) 50  
15 percent reduction in the campsite rental fee prescribed by the  
16 commission; and (ii) entitle such a person to free admission to any  
17 state park.

18 (b) A card, decal, or special license plate issued for a  
19 permanent disability under RCW 46.19.010 may serve as a pass for the  
20 holder to entitle that person and members of the person's camping  
21 unit to a (~~((fifty))~~) 50 percent reduction in the campsite rental fee  
22 prescribed by the commission, and to allow the holder free admission  
23 to state parks.

24 (3) Any resident of Washington who is a veteran and has a  
25 service-connected disability of at least (~~((thirty))~~) 30 percent shall  
26 be entitled to receive a lifetime (~~((veteran's disability))~~) disabled  
27 veteran pass at no cost to the holder. The pass shall: (a) Entitle  
28 such a person, and members of his or her camping unit, to free use of  
29 any campsite within any state park; and (b) entitle such a person to  
30 free admission to any state (~~((park; and (c) entitle such a person to~~  
31 ~~an exemption from any reservation fees))~~) recreation site or lands, as  
32 defined in RCW 79A.80.010. A lifetime disabled veteran pass entitles  
33 the holder to all of the benefits of a discover pass under chapter  
34 79A.80 RCW.

35 (4) (a) Any Washington state resident who provides out-of-home  
36 care to a child, as either a licensed foster family home or a person  
37 related to the child, is entitled to a foster home pass.

38 (b) An applicant for a foster home pass must request a pass in  
39 the manner required by the commission. Upon receipt of a properly  
40 submitted request, the commission shall verify with the department of

1 social and health services that the applicant qualifies under (a) of  
2 this subsection. Once issued, a foster home pass is valid for the  
3 period, which may not be less than one year, designated by the  
4 commission.

5 (c) When accompanied by a child receiving out-of-home care from  
6 the pass holder, a foster home pass: (i) Entitles such a person, and  
7 members of his or her camping unit, to free use of any campsite  
8 within any state park; and (ii) entitles such a person to free  
9 admission to any state park.

10 (d) For the purposes of this subsection (4):

11 (i) "Out-of-home care" means placement in a foster family home or  
12 with a person related to the child under the authority of chapter  
13 13.32A, 13.34, or 74.13 RCW;

14 (ii) "Foster family home" has the same meaning as defined in RCW  
15 74.15.020; and

16 (iii) "Person related to the child" means those persons referred  
17 to in RCW 74.15.020(2)(a) (i) through (vi).

18 (5) All passes issued pursuant to this section are valid at all  
19 parks any time during the year. However, the pass is not valid for  
20 admission to concessionaire operated facilities.

21 (6) The commission shall negotiate payment and costs, to allow  
22 holders of a foster home pass free access and usage of park  
23 campsites, with the following nonoperated, nonstate-owned parks:  
24 Central Ferry, Chief Timothy, Crow Butte, and Lyons Ferry. The  
25 commission shall seek state general fund reimbursement on a biennial  
26 basis.

27 (7) The commission may deny or revoke any Washington state park  
28 pass issued under this section at any time for cause, including but  
29 not limited to the following:

30 (a) Residency outside the state of Washington;

31 (b) Violation of laws or state park rules resulting in eviction  
32 from a state park;

33 (c) Intimidating, obstructing, or assaulting a park employee or  
34 park volunteer who is engaged in the performance of official duties;

35 (d) Fraudulent use of a pass;

36 (e) Providing false information or documentation in the  
37 application for a state parks pass;

38 (f) Refusing to display or show the pass to park employees when  
39 requested; or

1 (g) Failing to provide current eligibility information upon  
2 request by the agency or when eligibility ceases or changes.

3 (8) This section shall not affect or otherwise impair the power  
4 of the commission to continue or discontinue any other programs it  
5 has adopted for senior citizens.

6 (9) The commission may engage in a mutually agreed upon  
7 reciprocal or discounted program for all or specific pass programs  
8 with other outdoor recreation agencies.

9 (10) The commission shall adopt those rules as it finds  
10 appropriate for the administration of this section. Among other  
11 things, the rules shall prescribe a definition of "camping unit"  
12 which will authorize a reasonable number of persons traveling with  
13 the person having a pass to stay at the campsite rented by such a  
14 person, a minimum Washington residency requirement for applicants for  
15 a senior citizen's pass, and an application form to be completed by  
16 applicants for a senior citizen's pass.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 79A.25  
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 (1) The office shall convene a work group to review how  
20 recreation and park functions are currently funded for the state  
21 parks and recreation commission, the department of fish and wildlife,  
22 and the department of natural resources. The work group must consist  
23 of:

24 (a) A member from each of the state parks and recreation  
25 commission, the department of fish and wildlife, and the department  
26 of natural resources;

27 (b) Two members and two alternates from the senate, with one  
28 member and one alternate appointed from each of the two largest  
29 caucuses in the senate by the president of the senate; and

30 (c) Two members and two alternates from the house of  
31 representatives, with one member and one alternate appointed from  
32 each of the two largest caucuses in the house of representatives by  
33 the speaker of the house of representatives.

34 (2) The work group shall confer with tribal governments as part  
35 of the analysis and may engage with the Washington state institute  
36 for public policy and a broad range of stakeholders, including  
37 representatives from nonmotorized and motorized recreation, the  
38 outdoor recreation industry, hunters and anglers, friends or affinity

1 groups, outdoor equity organizations, environmental education, and  
2 other relevant public agencies or private entities.

3 (3) The work group must identify and assess the distinct funding  
4 structures, needs, and challenges of each agency as it relates to  
5 recreation and park functions. The group shall explore long-term  
6 funding strategies that ensure stable and adequate support for each  
7 agency's mission and responsibilities, including strategies  
8 identified in previously completed reports, where applicable.

9 (4) Prior to December 1, 2026, the work group must submit a  
10 report of the group's findings and recommendations to the appropriate  
11 committees of the legislature, the office of financial management,  
12 and the governor's office.

13 (5) The legislative members of the work group shall serve without  
14 compensation or remuneration.

15 (6) This section expires June 30, 2027.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act take  
17 effect October 1, 2025.

--- END ---