

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to state parks; providing members of the  
3           Florida National Guard and certain relatives of such  
4           members free entrance to state parks; requiring  
5           presentation of certain identification as a condition for  
6           free entrance; providing an effective date.

7  
8           WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the tremendous  
9           contributions of the Florida National Guard in their service to  
10          our country and the protection of our freedoms, and

11          WHEREAS, in addition to their overseas and regular military  
12          service, the Florida National Guard has been a steadfast force  
13          of stability and assistance for Florida's residents in every  
14          natural disaster, and

15          WHEREAS, leaving behind their families, civilian  
16          employment, and businesses during times of crisis when the needs  
17          and resources of all Floridians were greatly tested, these  
18          citizen-soldiers have been at the forefront of statewide  
19          emergency and rescue efforts, volunteering their tireless  
20          response to floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, and severe storms,  
21          and

22          WHEREAS, when at home, the honorable men and women serving  
23          our state should be encouraged to relax and spend time with  
24          their families and to enjoy their well-deserved respite from  
25          their many commitments and duties, and

26 WHEREAS, with the intent of showing our great pride and  
27 respect for the men and women of our National Guard and to  
28 return some token of our debt to these heroes, NOW, THEREFORE,  
29

30 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
31

32 Section 1. A person who is a member of the Florida  
33 National Guard, and the spouse and minor children of such a  
34 person, shall not be charged a fee for admission to a state park  
35 upon presentation of a valid, active Florida National Guard  
36 member or dependent identification card.

37 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.