
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2019 Senate Bill 587

**Senate Substitute
Amendment 1**

2019 SENATE BILL 587

2019 Senate Bill 587 reduces the federal disability rating¹ required to qualify for certain state park and trail admission fees and hunting and fishing authorizations and exemptions from a 50 percent or 70 percent disability rating, depending on the fee or authorization, to a 30 percent disability rating for all such fees, authorizations, and exemptions.

SENATE SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1

Rather than establish a 30 percent disability rating threshold for the various disabled veteran-related fees, authorizations, and exemptions, Senate Substitute Amendment 1 establishes a 50 percent disability rating threshold for all such fees, authorizations, and exemptions.

In addition, the substitute amendment adds the provisions of 2019 Senate Bill 85, a bill that the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy recommended for passage with a unanimous vote in April 2019. Those provisions reduce the fee for a conservation patron license² by \$100 for veterans who reside in Wisconsin and have a federal disability rating of at least 50 percent.

BILL HISTORY

Senators Jacque, Schactner, and L. Taylor introduced 2019 Senate Bill 587 on November 27, 2019. Senators Cowles and Jacque offered Senate Substitute Amendment 1 on February 3, 2020, following a public hearing on the bill. On February 14, 2020, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy voted by paper ballot to recommend adoption of the substitute amendment and passage of the bill, as amended, both on votes of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0.

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¹ Federal disability ratings are determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs based on an evaluation of impairment in earning capacity resulting from injuries and diseases resulting from military service.

² A conservation patron license is a “combination” license, which confers various privileges otherwise conferred by individual hunting and fishing licenses and stamps, and which authorizes admission to state parks and other fee areas. The general fee for a Wisconsin resident conservation patron license is \$160.25. Current law offers a reduced conservation patron license fee for persons under age 18 and for recipients of the Purple Heart medal, but it does not offer a reduced fee for other veterans with disabilities. [ss. 29.235 and 29.563 (4) (a) 2. to 2s., Stats.]