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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## AMENDMENT MEMO

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### 2021 Assembly Bill 285

### Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 and Assembly Amendment 1 to the Substitute Amendment

## 2021 ASSEMBLY BILL 285

Current law authorizes municipalities, public lake protection and rehabilitation districts, and town sanitary districts to charge a reasonable launch fee for the purpose of operating and maintaining a boat access site that it owns or operates. [s. 30.77 (3) (e) 1. a., Stats.; s. NR 1.91 (11), Wis. Adm. Code.]

Assembly Bill 285 requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to issue boat launch permits to veterans over the age of 65. The permits authorize access to any public boat launch owned or operated by a municipality, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation district, or town sanitary district without paying any required fee. A veteran must apply for a permit by providing DNR with copies of his or her operator's license and certificate of release or discharge from active duty. A veteran may apply in person or by mail, to DNR or to the veteran's county of residence. If the application is received by a county, the county must issue the permit and forward the application to DNR. Neither DNR nor the county may charge a fee for the issuance of the permit. The permit must be affixed to the interior surface of the lower left-hand corner of the windshield of the vehicle used to trailer the boat and is valid for the calendar year in which it is issued.

## ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1

Instead of the permit process created in the bill, Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 provides that DNR, municipalities, public lake protection and rehabilitation districts, and town sanitary districts may not require a veteran who is over the age of 65 to pay any fee for the use of a public boat launch owned or operated by the state or any of these local entities if the veteran provides copies of his or her certificate of release or discharge from active duty and registration for the vehicle used to trailer the boat (instead of the operator's license as under the bill). Under the substitute amendment, instead of making any payment required at a public boat launch, a veteran over the age of 65 must provide this documentation to the boat launch attendant, owner, or operator, or deposit the documentation into a receptacle provided for collecting payments at the boat launch.

## ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1 TO THE SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT

Assembly Amendment 1 to the substitute amendment retains the directive that DNR, municipalities, public lake protection and rehabilitation districts, and town sanitary districts may not require a veteran over the age of 65 to pay any fee for the use of a public boat launch owned or operated by the state or any of these local entities. The amendment removes the requirement that the veteran provide or deposit the documentation specified in the substitute amendment at the boat launch. Instead, under the amendment, a veteran who is over the age of 65 may not be required to pay a fee to use a public boat

launch if the veteran attests his or her veteran status to either DNR or the local entity that owns or operates the boat launch.

## **BILL HISTORY**

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 and Assembly Amendment 1 to the substitute amendment were offered by Representative Thiesfeldt. On November 8, 2021, the Assembly Committee on Forestry, Parks and Outdoor Recreation recommended adoption of the amendment to the substitute amendment and the substitute amendment, as amended, on votes of Ayes, 12; Noes, 0. The committee then voted to recommend passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 12; Noes, 0.

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