



State of Wisconsin
2025 - 2026 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1796/P1

ZDW:skw

DOA:.....Vencill, BB0451 - State park fee waiver for fourth graders

FOR 2025-2027 BUDGET -- NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

AN ACT ...; relating to: the budget.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

NATURAL RESOURCES

RECREATION

Free admission to state parks for fourth graders

Under current law, no person may operate a vehicle in any state park or in certain other recreational areas on state land unless the vehicle displays a vehicle admission receipt. This bill requires DNR to waive the fee for an annual vehicle admission receipt issued to the parent or guardian of a pupil receiving a fourth grade level of instruction. A parent or guardian of a qualifying pupil may apply to DNR for the waiver by submitting required certifications. A parent or guardian may receive the waiver only once in his or her lifetime and DNR may issue a waiver only once for a household.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 27.01 (9) (bg) of the statutes is created to read:

27.01 (9) (bg) *Annual 4th grade pass.* 1. In this paragraph:

- a. "Fourth grade pupil" means a child receiving a 4th grade level of instruction in a school or a home-based private educational program, as defined in s. 115.001 (3g).
- b. "Guardian" has the meaning given in s. 48.02 (8).
- c. "Parent" has the meaning given in s. 48.02 (13).

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2. The parent or guardian of a child may apply for an annual vehicle admission receipt fee waiver by submitting an application to the department. An application may not be submitted to a regional office of the department or to a person who is subject to an appointment or a contract as authorized under s. 29.024 (6) (a) 2. to 4. but must be submitted directly to the main office of the department. An application shall be submitted on a form provided by the department and shall include all of the following information:

- a. The child's name.
- b. The child's date of birth.
- c. The name of the school the child is or will be attending or a certification that the child is in a home-based private educational program, as defined in s. 115.001 (3g).
- d. A certification that the child is, was, or will be a 4th grade pupil on the first day of January of the calendar year for which the waiver is issued. This certification may be satisfied with dated report cards, dated and signed enrollment forms, a dated letter from the child's school on official letterhead, or any other proof deemed acceptable by the department.

3. Subject to subd. 4., the department shall provide to an individual whose application submitted under subd. 2. is approved an annual vehicle admission receipt fee waiver that is valid for the calendar year in which the waiver is issued.

4. A parent or guardian may receive only one fee waiver under this paragraph in his or her lifetime. If a parent or guardian receives a fee waiver under this

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paragraph, the department may not issue a fee waiver under this paragraph for any other member of the parent's or guardian's household.

5. The department shall waive the fee, including the issuing fee, imposed under sub. (7) for an annual vehicle admission receipt for a single vehicle, except a motor bus, that has Wisconsin registration plates and that is operated by a person who holds a valid fee waiver issued under this paragraph.

SECTION 9432. Effective dates; Natural Resources.

(1) ANNUAL 4TH GRADE PASS. The treatment of s. 27.01 (9) (bg) takes effect on January 1, 2026.

(END)