

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AND FIREFIGHTER
RECREATION PASS ACT

JULY 16, 2025.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of
the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. WESTERMAN, from the Committee on Natural Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 183]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 183) to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for law enforcement officers, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with amendments and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter Recreation Pass Act”.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL RECREATIONAL PASSES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND FIREFIGHTERS.

Section 805(b) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6804(b)) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) ANNUAL PASSES.—The Secretary shall make the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available, at no cost, to—

“(A) a member of the Armed Forces and their dependents; or

“(B) a law enforcement officer or firefighter,

who provide adequate proof of eligibility for such pass as determined by the Secretary.”.

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) FIREFIGHTER.—The term ‘firefighter’ means any employee of the Federal Government, a State, a unit of local government, or an Indian Tribe who performs work directly related to suppressing fires, including wildland fires.

“(B) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term ‘law enforcement officer’ means any officer, agent, or employee of the Federal Government, a State, a unit of local government, or an Indian Tribe authorized by law or by a

government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, or investigation of any violation of criminal law or who is authorized by law to supervise sentenced criminal offenders.”.

Amend the title so as to read:

A bill to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a free annual National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass for law enforcement officers and firefighters.

PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

The purpose of H.R. 183, as ordered reported, is to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a free annual National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass for law enforcement officers and firefighters.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Currently, the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) authorizes each of the federal land management agencies to issue the “America the Beautiful—the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass,” which covers entrance fees and standard amenity fees at more than 2,000 federal recreation areas.¹ Since FLREA’s passage, Congress has enacted several laws to offer free or discounted recreation passes to senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, veterans, active-duty military service members, and Gold Star Family members.² Most recently, Congress enacted the “Alexander Lofgren Veterans in Parks (VIP) Act” in 2021 to provide free lifetime passes to veterans and Gold Star Families and free annual passes to active-duty military servicemembers.³

H.R. 183, the “Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter Recreation Pass Act,” would provide free annual recreation passes to national parks and public lands to federal, state, Tribal, or local law enforcement officers and firefighters. The bill seeks to honor the sacrifices of law enforcement officers and firefighters who put their lives on the line daily to protect public safety. In many cases, particularly in the West, local law enforcement officers and firefighters are often the first line of defense for search and rescue operations, preventing crime and vandalism, and suppressing wildland fires that occur on public lands. Providing free access to the lands that these brave men and women defend and protect is the least we could do to show our appreciation for their continued service and sacrifice.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 183 was introduced on January 3, 2025, by Representative Tom McClintock (R–CA). The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. The bill was also referred to the Committee on Agriculture. On June 25, 2025, the Committee on Natural Resources met to consider the bill. Representative Tom McClintock offered an Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute designated McClintock 051 ANS. The Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute agreed to by unanimous consent. The bill, as amended, was

¹ 16 U.S.C. 6804.

² *Id.*

³ H.R. 4300; became law as part of the National Defense Authorization Act.

then ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

HEARINGS

For the purposes of clause 3(c)(6) of House rule XIII, the following hearing was used to develop or consider this measure: hearing in the 118th Congress by the Subcommittee on Federal Lands held on March 28, 2023.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title

Section 1 names the legislation the “Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter Recreation Pass Act.”

Section 2. National recreational passes for law enforcement officers and firefighters

Section 2 amends FLREA to offer free annual passes to federal recreation sites that charge an entrance fee for law enforcement officers or firefighters who provide proof of eligibility, as determined by the Secretary. This section further defines ‘law enforcement officer’ and ‘firefighter’ for purposes of eligibility.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources’ oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT

1. *Cost of Legislation and the Congressional Budget Act.* Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of House rule XIII and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and pursuant to clause 3(c)(3) of House rule XIII and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has requested but not received from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office a budgetary analysis and a cost estimate of this bill.

2. *General Performance Goals and Objectives.* As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this bill, as ordered reported, is to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a free annual National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass for law enforcement officers and firefighters.

EARMARK STATEMENT

This bill does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined under clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

UNFUNDED MANDATES REFORM ACT STATEMENT

An estimate of federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act was not made available to the Committee in time for the filing of this report. The Chair of the Committee shall cause such estimate to be printed in the Congressional Record upon its receipt by the Committee, if such estimate is not publicly available on the Congressional Budget Office website.

EXISTING PROGRAMS

Directed Rule Making. This bill does not contain any directed rule makings.

Duplication of Existing Programs. This bill does not establish or reauthorize a program of the federal government known to be duplicative of another program. Such program was not included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139 or identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance published pursuant to the Federal Program Information Act (Public Law 95–220, as amended by Public Law 98–169) as relating to other programs.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

Any preemptive effect of this bill over state, local, or tribal law is intended to be consistent with the bill’s purposes and text and the Supremacy Clause of Article VI of the U.S. Constitution.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

FEDERAL LANDS RECREATION ENHANCEMENT ACT

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DIVISION J—OTHER MATTERS

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TITLE VIII—FEDERAL LANDS RECREATION ENHANCEMENT ACT

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SEC. 805. RECREATION PASSES.

(a) **AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL—THE NATIONAL PARKS AND FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS PASS.**—

(1) **AVAILABILITY AND USE.**—The Secretaries shall establish, and may charge a fee for, an interagency national pass to be known as the “America the Beautiful—the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass”, which shall cover the entrance fee and standard amenity recreation fee for all Federal recreational lands and waters for which an entrance fee or a standard amenity recreation fee is charged.

(2) **IMAGE COMPETITION FOR RECREATION PASS.**—The Secretaries shall hold an annual competition to select the image to be used on the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass for a year. The competition shall be open to the public and used as a means to educate the American people about Federal recreational lands and waters.

(3) **NOTICE OF ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretaries shall publish a notice in the Federal Register when the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass is first established and available for purchase.

(4) **DURATION.**—The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass shall be valid for a period of 12 months from the date of the issuance of the recreation pass to a passholder, except in the case of the age discount and lifetime passes issued under subsection (b).

(5) **PRICE.**—The Secretaries shall establish the price at which the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass will be sold to the public.

(6) **SALES LOCATIONS AND MARKETING.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretaries shall sell or otherwise make available the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass—

(i) at all Federal recreational lands and waters at which—

(I) an entrance fee or a standard amenity recreation fee is charged; and

(II) such sales or distribution of the Pass is feasible;

(ii) at such other locations as the Secretaries consider appropriate and feasible; and

(iii) through a prominent link to a centralized pass sale system on the website of each of the Federal land management agencies and the websites of the relevant units and subunits of those agencies, which shall include information about where and when a National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass may be used.

(B) **USE OF VENDORS.**—The Secretary may enter into fee management agreements as provided in section 6.

(C) **MARKETING.**—The Secretaries shall take such actions as are appropriate to provide for the active marketing of the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass.

(7) **ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES.**—The Secretaries shall issue guidelines on administration of the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass, which shall include agreement

on price, the distribution of revenues between the Federal land management agencies, the sharing of costs, benefits provided, marketing and design, adequate documentation for discounts under subsection (b), and the issuance of that recreation pass to volunteers. The Secretaries shall take into consideration all relevant visitor and sales data available in establishing the guidelines.

(8) DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENTS.—The Secretaries may enter into cooperative agreements with governmental and nongovernmental entities for the development and implementation of the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass Program.

(9) PROHIBITION ON OTHER NATIONAL RECREATION PASSES.—The Secretary may not establish any national recreation pass, except as provided in this section.

(10) DIGITAL RECREATION PASSES.—Not later than January 1, 2026, the Secretaries shall—

(A) establish a digital version of the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass that is able to be stored on a mobile device, including with respect to free and discounted passes; and

(B) upon completion of a transaction for a National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass, make immediately available to the passholder a digital version of the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass established under subparagraph (A).

(b) FREE AND DISCOUNTED PASSES.—

(1) AGE DISCOUNT.—

(A) The Secretary shall make the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available to any United States citizen or person domiciled in the United States who is 62 years of age or older, if the citizen or person provides adequate proof of such age and such citizenship or residency. The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass made available under this paragraph shall be available—

(i) for a period of 12 months from the date of the issuance, at a cost of \$20; and

(ii) for the lifetime of the passholder, at a cost equal to the cost of the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass purchased under subsection (a).

(B) The Secretary shall issue a pass under subparagraph (A)(ii), for no additional cost, to any individual who provides evidence, under policies and guidelines determined by the Secretary, that the individual has purchased a pass under subparagraph (A)(i) for each of the 4 years prior to being issued a pass under this subparagraph.

(2) LIFETIME PASSES.—The Secretary shall make the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available, without charge and for the lifetime of the passholder, to the following:

(A) Any United States citizen or person domiciled in the United States who has been medically determined to be permanently disabled, within the meaning of the term “disability” under section 3 of the Americans with Disabil-

ities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102), if the citizen or person provides adequate proof of the disability and such citizenship or residency.

(B) Any veteran who provides adequate proof of military service as determined by the Secretary.

(C) Any member of a Gold Star Family who meets the eligibility requirements of section 3.2 of Department of Defense Instruction 1348.36 (or a successor instruction).

[(3) ANNUAL PASSES.—The Secretary shall make the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available, at no cost, to members of the Armed Forces and their dependents who provide adequate proof of eligibility for such pass as determined by the Secretary.]

(3) ANNUAL PASSES.—*The Secretary shall make the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available, at no cost, to—*

(A) a member of the Armed Forces and their dependents;

or

(B) a law enforcement officer or firefighter, who provide adequate proof of eligibility for such pass as determined by the Secretary.

(4) DEFINITIONS.—*In this subsection:*

(A) FIREFIGHTER.—The term “firefighter” means any employee of the Federal Government, a State, a unit of local government, or an Indian Tribe who performs work directly related to suppressing fires, including wildland fires.

(B) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term “law enforcement officer” means any officer, agent, or employee of the Federal Government, a State, a unit of local government, or an Indian Tribe authorized by law or by a government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, or investigation of any violation of criminal law or who is authorized by law to supervise sentenced criminal offenders.

(c) SITE-SPECIFIC AGENCY PASSES.—The Secretary may establish and charge a fee for a site-specific pass that will cover the entrance fee or standard amenity recreation fee for particular Federal recreational lands and waters for a specified period not to exceed 12 months.

(d) REGIONAL MULTIENTITY PASSES.—

(1) PASSES AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may establish and charge a fee for a regional multientity pass that will be accepted by one or more Federal land management agencies or by one or more governmental or nongovernmental entities for a specified period not to exceed 12 months. To include a Federal land management agency or governmental or nongovernmental entity over which the Secretary does not have jurisdiction, the Secretary shall obtain the consent of the head of such agency or entity.

(2) REGIONAL MULTIENTITY PASS AGREEMENT.—In order to establish a regional multientity pass under this subsection, the Secretary shall enter into a regional multientity pass agreement with all the participating agencies or entities on price, the distribution of revenues between participating agencies or entities, the sharing of costs, benefits provided, marketing and

design, and the issuance of the pass to volunteers. The Secretary shall take into consideration all relevant visitor and sales data available when entering into this agreement.

(e) DISCOUNTED OR FREE ADMISSION DAYS OR USE.—The Secretary may provide for a discounted or free admission day or use of Federal recreational lands and waters.

(f) EFFECT ON EXISTING PASSPORTS AND PERMITS.—

(1) EXISTING PASSPORTS.—A passport issued under section 4 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 or title VI of the National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–391), such as the Golden Eagle Passport, the Golden Age Passport, the Golden Access Passport, and the National Parks Passport, that was valid on the day before the publication of the Federal Register notice required under subsection (a)(3) shall be valid in accordance with the terms agreed to at the time of issuance of the passport, to the extent practicable, and remain in effect until expired, lost, or stolen.

(2) PERMITS.—A permit issued under section 4 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 that was valid on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act shall be valid and remain in effect until expired, revoked, or suspended.

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July 9, 2025

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The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Chairman
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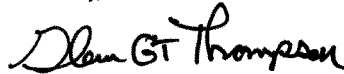
Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter confirms our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 183, the "Law Enforcement Officer Recreation Pass Act." Thank you for collaborating with the Committee on Agriculture on the matters within our jurisdiction.

The Committee on Agriculture will forego any further consideration of this bill. However, by foregoing consideration at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over any subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. The Committee on Agriculture also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees, should it become necessary, and ask that you support such a request.

We would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 183 and request a copy of our letters on this matter be published in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,



Glenn "GT" Thompson
Chairman

Cc: The Honorable Angie Craig, Ranking Member, Committee on Agriculture
The Honorable Jared Huffman, Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources
The Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Jason Smith, Parliamentarian, U.S. House of Representatives

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July 9, 2025

The Honorable Glenn "GT" Thompson
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I write regarding our mutual understanding of H.R. 183, the *Law Enforcement Officer Recreation Pass Act*, which was ordered report by the Committee on Natural Resources.

I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture and appreciate your willingness to forgo further consideration of the bill. I acknowledge that the Committee on Agriculture will not formally consider H.R. 183 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained therein.

I am pleased to support your request to name members of the Committee on Agriculture to any conference committee to consider such provisions. I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the *Congressional Record* during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,



Bruce Westerman
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources

cc: The Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Angie Craig, Ranking Member, Committee on Agriculture
The Honorable Jared Huffman, Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources
The Honorable Jason Smith, Parliamentarian, U.S. House of Representatives

