



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

February 11, 2025

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill – 312 – First Reader

SHORT TITLE: Natural Resources – State Parks – Maryland Golden Age Pass

DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: SUPPORT

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION

The Golden Age Pass entitlements support access to parks and green spaces for older adults, and the entitlements within this bill are already standard practice within the Maryland Park Service. This bill would simply codify these provisions.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Currently, any resident 62 years or older may purchase a Golden Age Pass from the Maryland Park Service. Pass holders may camp overnight in any State Park at one-half of the established fee Monday through Thursday, excluding holidays. The pass also permits free day-use entry and boat launching at any State Park that charges a fee. When the fee in effect is per vehicle, everyone in the vehicle with the pass holder is admitted for free.

Several State Parks use automatic gates that will require Golden Age Pass holders to also have a supplementary magnetic swipe card to enter these locations (free of charge). They are obtained by reaching out to the specific parks to get the pass. These parks currently include Bohemia River, Point Lookout, St. Mary’s River, Rosaryville, and Sandy Point State Parks.

BILL EXPLANATION

This bill establishes that Golden Age Pass holders are entitled to free day-use entry at certain State Parks and authorizes launching a boat at any State Park without paying a boat launch fee. It also establishes that free day-use entry applies to everyone in the vehicle with a holder of the Golden Age Pass when the day-use fee is per vehicle.

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