

Date of Hearing: June 26, 2024

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Esmeralda Soria, Chair
SB 1186 (Ochoa Bogh) – As Introduced February 14, 2024

SENATE VOTE: 39-0

SUBJECT: Fairs: free admissions

SUMMARY: This bill would provide a courtesy pass admission to any state, county, district, or citrus fruit fair, to military personnel, regardless of whether they are in uniform. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Expands the exception of the courtesy pass admission to include the admission of any military personnel, regardless whether they are in uniform.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Defines “Courtesy pass admission” to mean any admission, without payment of the admission charge, to any state, county, district, or citrus fruit fair except any of the following (*Food and Agriculture Code (FAC) 3002*):
 - a. Credential admission
 - b. Admission of any child under 12 years of age
 - c. Admission of any military personnel in uniform
- 2) States that if a charge is made for admission to enter a state, county, district, or citrus fruit fair, existing law authorizes, among others, military personnel in uniform to be admitted to the fairgrounds without the payment of the established admission price (*FAC 3021 - 3022*).

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS: According to the author, current law authorizes state, county, and district fairs to waive admission for specified persons, including military personnel in uniform. Unfortunately, not all military personnel are authorized to wear their uniforms in public.

In addition to cost pressures, service members may hesitate to wear their uniforms in public due to safety concerns or weather conditions. During the 2023 California State Fair, temperatures reached a record high of 109 degrees. The heat was so intense that officials cancelled the horse races, likely contributing to the 9% drop in attendance from the previous year.

To remove barriers to attendance and ensure all military personnel can enjoy fairs in comfort, this bill will eliminate the requirement that military personnel must be in uniform to receive free admission to any state, county, district, or citrus fruit fair.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

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