



**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
BUREAU OF SENIOR SERVICES**

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Commissioner

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The Bureau of Senior Services (the Bureau) is discontinuing the Golden Mountaineer card program. Over time, discounts offered to seniors have become more of an accepted practice that does not require a physical card to obtain the discount. The Bureau applauds this mindset of our West Virginia business owners and nonprofits.

Before deciding to discontinue the program, the Bureau contacted various entities to make certain there would be little to no impact to discontinuing the Golden Mountaineer card. We were particularly concerned about the West Virginia Parks system operated under the auspices of the Tourism department – many West Virginia seniors have in the past been in the habit of using the card to obtain a discount for staying in the park system. We were informed by the Parks that they already offer a discount, and it's not restricted just to West Virginia seniors, but they welcome seniors from anywhere to come and enjoy the bountiful beauty of nature that West Virginia has in such abundance.

At this time, we are unaware of any entity in the state that will require the physical card to offer the discount, and as a result, the Bureau has decided to put the resources that were formally devoted to this program to use in other very needed areas to benefit our West Virginia seniors.

We encourage any senior who encounters an issue obtaining a discount that they were able to get by showing the Golden Mountaineer card in the past to contact the Bureau to make us aware of the issue. We will do our best to resolve it where at all possible.

We are deeply appreciative to all West Virginia entities that offer discounts to seniors – you are part of what makes this state a wonderful place to live for our seniors.