

# HOUSE BILL 1027

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11r2492  
CF SB 381

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By: **Delegate Ross**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2011

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health – Residential Camps – Definition**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “residential camp” for purposes of certain  
4 provisions of law governing youth camps to increase the number of days a youth  
5 camp may operate as a residential camp; and generally relating to residential  
6 camps.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article – Health – General  
9 Section 14–401  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
13 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – Health – General**

15 14–401.

16 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

17 (b) “Alternative accreditation” means a national camping standard that is  
18 acceptable to the Secretary as providing adequate health and safety protection for the  
19 campers, such as the American Camping Association standards for camp programs  
20 and services and the Boy Scouts of America standards, which includes an annual  
21 monitoring process to verify compliance with the standard.

22 (c) “Camper” means any child under 18 years of age who is attending a youth  
23 camp.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (d) "Certificate" means a single certificate issued by the Department to a  
2 youth camp under this subtitle.

3 (e) "Council" means the Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council.

4 (f) "Day" means all or part of a 24-hour period.

5 (g) "Day camp" means a youth camp that:

6 (1) Is operated for all or part of the day but less than 24 hours a day;

7 (2) Is conducted for at least 7 days during a 3-week period; and

8 (3) Provides 3 or more recreational activities or any 1 specialized  
9 activity including:

10 (i) Aquatic programs;

11 (ii) Horseback riding;

12 (iii) Firearms control;

13 (iv) Riflery;

14 (v) Archery;

15 (vi) Adventure camps;

16 (vii) Artistic gymnastics;

17 (viii) Hang gliding;

18 (ix) Road cycling;

19 (x) Skiing;

20 (xi) Rock climbing;

21 (xii) Spelunking;

22 (xiii) Motorized vehicle activities;

23 (xiv) Rappelling; or

24 (xv) High ropes.

25 (h) "Occasional use" means periodic involvement in a program where there is  
26 no expectation of regular attendance.

1 (i) "Operate" means to supervise, control, conduct, or manage a youth camp  
2 as:

3 (1) An owner;

4 (2) An agent of the owner;

5 (3) A lessee of the owner;

6 (4) A director; or

7 (5) An independent contractor.

8 (j) "Residential camp" means a youth camp operating at a facility or  
9 campsite at which a camper either lives apart or intends to live apart from the  
10 camper's relatives, parents, or legal guardians for at least [5] 6 consecutive days.

11 (k) "Routine activity" means any type of activity other than a specialized  
12 activity as set forth in subsection (g)(3) of this section that is conducted for children by  
13 a youth camp.

14 (l) "Travel camp" means a residential camp that:

15 (1) Operates for at least 5 consecutive days; and

16 (2) Provides for campers to use motorized transportation to move as a  
17 group to or among sites for experiences in different environments.

18 (m) "Trip camp" means a residential camp:

19 (1) That operates for at least 5 consecutive days; and

20 (2) In which a group of individuals move from 1 site to another under  
21 their own power or by transportation which permits individual guidance of a vehicle or  
22 animal.

23 (n) "Unit" means a board, department, agency, or other component of a  
24 county or a municipal corporation.

25 (o) "Youth camp" or "camp" means any day camp, residential camp, travel  
26 camp, or trip camp that:

27 (1) Accommodates 7 or more campers who are unrelated to the person  
28 operating the camp;

1                   (2) Provides primarily recreational activities or has a substantial  
2 outdoor recreational component;

3                   (3) Has permanent buildings, temporary buildings, or no buildings;  
4 and

5                   (4) Operates on:

6                   (i) Owned private property;

7                   (ii) Owned private facilities;

8                   (iii) Leased private property;

9                   (iv) Leased private facilities;

10                  (v) Public property; or

11                  (vi) Public facilities.

12                  (p) “Youth overnight program” means an activity sponsored by a religious or  
13 a community organization at a facility or site at which an individual less than 18 years  
14 old either lives apart or intends to live apart from the individual’s relatives, parent, or  
15 legal guardians for fewer than 5 consecutive days.

16                  SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
17 October 1, 2011.