
By: Delegate Rosenberg

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1997

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Institutions of Higher Education - Youth Camps - Inspections**

3 FOR the purpose of exempting institutions of higher education that operate youth camps
4 from certain inspections by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene under
5 specified circumstances; and generally relating to inspections of youth camps at
6 institutions of higher education.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article - Health - General
9 Section 14-403(b) and (c)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article - Health - General
14 Section 14-401(l) and 14-403(a)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

19 **Article - Health - General**

20 14-401.

21 (l) "Youth camp" or "camp" means any day camp, residential camp, travel camp,
22 or trip camp that:

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

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

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

28 (4) Operates on:

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- 1 (i) Owned private property;
- 2 (ii) Owned private facilities;
- 3 (iii) Leased private property;
- 4 (iv) Leased private facilities;
- 5 (v) Public property; [or]
- 6 (vi) Public facilities; OR
- 7 (VII) SCHOOL FACILITIES.

8 14-403.

9 (a) (1) In addition to the powers set forth elsewhere in this article and subject
10 to the provisions of Title 10 of the State Government Article, on or before October 1,
11 1987, the Secretary shall adopt regulations for certifying youth camps and for issuing
12 letters of compliance.

13 (2) (i) An applicant for a certificate shall submit an application to the
14 Department on the form that the Secretary requires.

15 (ii) An application for a certificate or for a letter of compliance shall
16 include:

- 17 1. The name and permanent mailing address of the applicant;
- 18 2. The proposed location of the youth camp; and
- 19 3. Any other information and fee that the Department requires.

20 (iii) For a unit or agency subject to the provisions of this subtitle, the
21 Secretary shall require the unit or agency to complete only one application for
22 certification for all youth camps directed or operated by that unit or agency.

23 (3) (i) The Department shall be solely responsible for implementing and
24 enforcing the provisions of this subtitle.

25 (ii) Except as provided in subparagraph (iv) of this paragraph, the
26 Secretary may impose a fee for the purpose of inspecting, monitoring, and regulating
27 youth camps as follows:

- 28 1. \$75 for day camps;
- 29 2. \$100 for residential camps;
- 30 3. \$100 for travel camps; and
- 31 4. \$100 for trip camps.

32 (iii) All fees shall be paid to the General Fund of the State.

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1 (iv) A camp accredited or certified in accordance with the provisions of
2 subsection (b)(9) of this section may not be charged a fee under the provisions of this
3 section.

4 (4) (i) The operator of a youth camp directed or operated by a bona fide
5 religious organization shall:

- 6 1. Submit an application for certification;
- 7 2. Submit an application for a letter of compliance and have the
8 youth camp inspected by the Department; or
- 9 3. Submit an application for a letter of compliance and proof of
10 an alternative form of accreditation acceptable to the Secretary under subsection (b)(9)
11 of this section.

12 (ii) When a youth camp is operating under subparagraph (i) of this
13 paragraph, and an inspection reveals health or safety violations of the regulations
14 adopted under this subtitle, the Secretary may issue an order to abate the violation or to
15 cease operation.

16 (5) WHEN A YOUTH CAMP OPERATES ON THE FACILITIES OF A PUBLIC
17 OR NONPUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AS DEFINED UNDER § 10-101
18 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE THAT PASSED ALL STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
19 INSPECTIONS FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS, THE INSTITUTION OF
20 HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM THE DEPARTMENTAL INSPECTION
21 UNDER THIS SECTION.

22 (b) With due consideration for conditions existing in nature and for the
23 importance of outdoor adventure experiences, the regulations shall include:

24 (1) Safety procedures for:

- 25 (i) Aquatic programs;
- 26 (ii) Horseback riding;
- 27 (iii) Firearms control;
- 28 (iv) Riflery;
- 29 (v) Archery;
- 30 (vi) Adventure camps;
- 31 (vii) Artistic gymnastics;
- 32 (viii) Hang gliding;
- 33 (ix) Road cycling;
- 34 (x) Skiing;
- 35 (xi) Rock climbing;
- 36 (xii) Spelunking;

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1 (xiii) Motorized vehicle activities;

2 (xiv) Rappelling; or

3 (xv) High ropes;

4 (2) Except for outdoor cookouts, sanitation regulations pertaining to the
5 facilities and personnel for the storage, preparation, and serving of food products;

6 (3) Personal health, first aid, and medical services, health supervision, and
7 the maintenance of health records for campers;

8 (4) Water supplies, sewage disposal systems, and refuse collection and
9 disposal procedures;

10 (5) Fire and safety standards relating to the buildings and the occupants of
11 buildings;

12 (6) Systems for the routine reporting of fatalities and serious illnesses or
13 accidents;

14 (7) Any personnel screening procedures that are required for operators and
15 employees of group day care centers;

16 (8) Procedures for conducting inspection, monitoring compliance, and
17 verifying information; and

18 (9) Alternate forms of camping accreditation or certification which are
19 acceptable to the Secretary.

20 (c) The Secretary shall cooperate with other departments or agencies to facilitate
21 the activities of the departments or agencies in carrying out responsibilities for enforcing
22 the laws and regulations relating to youth camps.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
24 October 1, 1997.