

SENATE BILL 62

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2001 Regular Session  
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(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Chairman, Finance Committee (Departmental - Health and Mental Hygiene) and Senator Hoffman**

Requested: November 14, 2000

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2001

Assigned to: Finance

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Youth Camps - Days of Operation and Regulations**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definitions of certain youth camps with respect to the  
4 number of days they operate for the purpose of requiring certification; requiring  
5 that regulations for youth camps include safety procedures for the  
6 transportation of campers to and from separate sites and minimum standards  
7 for the supervision of campers; and generally relating to the certification of  
8 youth camps.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article - Health - General  
11 Section 14-401 and 14-403  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2000 Replacement Volume)

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

16 **Article - Health - General**

17 14-401.

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

19 (b) "Camper" means any child under 18 years of age who is attending a youth  
20 camp.

21 (c) "Council" means the Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council.

22 (d) "Day camp" means a youth camp that:

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

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

1 (3) Provides 3 or more recreational activities or any 1 specialized activity

2 including:

- 3 (i) Aquatic programs;
- 4 (ii) Horseback riding;
- 5 (iii) Firearms control;
- 6 (iv) Riflery;
- 7 (v) Archery;
- 8 (vi) Adventure camps;
- 9 (vii) Artistic gymnastics;
- 10 (viii) Hang gliding;
- 11 (ix) Road cycling;
- 12 (x) Skiing;
- 13 (xi) Rock climbing;
- 14 (xii) Spelunking;
- 15 (xiii) Motorized vehicle activities;
- 16 (xiv) Rappelling; or
- 17 (xv) High ropes.

18 (e) "Certificate" means a single certificate issued by the Department to a  
19 youth camp under this subtitle.

20 (f) "Occasional use" means periodic involvement in a program where there is  
21 no expectation of regular attendance.

22 (g) "Operate" means to supervise, control, conduct, or manage a youth camp  
23 as:

- 24 (1) An owner;
- 25 (2) An agent of the owner;
- 26 (3) A lessee of the owner;
- 27 (4) A director; or
- 28 (5) An independent contractor.

1 (h) "Residential camp" means a youth camp operating at a facility or campsite  
2 at which a camper either lives apart or intends to live apart from the camper's  
3 relatives, parents, or legal guardians for at least [7] 5 consecutive 24-hour days.

4 (i) "Travel camp" means a camp that:

5 (1) Operates for not less than 24 hours a day for at least [7] 5  
6 consecutive days; and

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

9 (j) "Trip camp" means a camp:

10 (1) That operates for not less than 24 hours a day for at least [7] 5  
11 consecutive days; and

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

15 (k) "Unit" means a board, department, agency, or other component of a county  
16 or a municipal corporation.

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

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

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

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

24 (4) Operates on:

25 (i) Owned private property;

26 (ii) Owned private facilities;

27 (iii) Leased private property;

28 (iv) Leased private facilities;

29 (v) Public property; or

30 (vi) Public facilities.

1 14-403.

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

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

8 (ii) An application for a certificate or for a letter of compliance shall  
9 include:

- 10 1. The name and permanent mailing address of the  
11 applicant;
- 12 2. The proposed location of the youth camp; and
- 13 3. Any other information and fee that the Department  
14 requires.

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

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

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

- 23 1. \$75 for day camps;
- 24 2. \$100 for residential camps;
- 25 3. \$100 for travel camps; and
- 26 4. \$100 for trip camps.

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

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

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

- 33 1. Submit an application for certification;



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

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

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

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

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

11          (8)     Procedures for conducting inspection, monitoring compliance, and  
12 verifying information; [and]

13          (9)     Alternate forms of camping accreditation or certification which are  
14 acceptable to the Secretary;

15          (10)    SAFETY PROCEDURES FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF CAMPERS TO  
16 AND FROM SEPARATE SITES; AND

17          (11)    MINIMUM STANDARDS, INCLUDING STAFFING RATIOS, FOR THE  
18 SUPERVISION OF CAMPERS.

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

22       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
23 effect July 1, 2001.