

HOUSE BILL 1041

J1, E4

6lr1677

By: **Delegates Spiegel, Behler, Fair, Lehman, Lopez, McComas, Metzgar, Mireku-North, Palakovich Carr, Queen, Schindler, and Wolek**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2026

Assigned to: Health

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Youth Camps – Structures in Flood Hazard Areas – Prohibition**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the Maryland Department of Health from issuing or
4 renewing a certificate or accepting alternative accreditation for a youth camp if any
5 structures that are or will be used to house a camper are located in a flood hazard
6 area; and generally relating to youth camps.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

8 Article – Environment

9 Section 5–801(a), (f), and (g)

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

13 Article – Health – General

14 Section 14–401(a), (b), (d), and (o) and 14–403(a)(1) and (2)

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

18 Article – Health – General

19 Section 14–403(a)(3)

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

23 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

24 **Article – Environment**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 5–801.

2 (a) In this subtitle the following terms have the meanings indicated.

3 (f) “Flood hazard area” means an area of tidal or nontidal inundation resulting
4 from a 100–year flood event and established pursuant to the provisions of § 5–803 of this
5 subtitle.

6 (g) “100–year flood event” or “100–year flood” means a flood that has a 1% chance
7 of being equalled or exceeded in any given year.

8 **Article – Health – General**

9 14–401.

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

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

16 (d) “Certificate” means a single certificate issued by the Department to a youth
17 camp under this subtitle.

18 (o) “Youth camp” or “camp” means any day camp, residential camp, travel camp,
19 or trip camp that:

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

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

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

25 (4) Operates on:

26 (i) Owned private property;

27 (ii) Owned private facilities;

28 (iii) Leased private property;

29 (iv) Leased private facilities;

1 (v) Public property; or

2 (vi) Public facilities.

3 14-403.

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

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

10 (ii) An application for a certificate or for a letter of compliance shall
11 include:

12 1. The name and permanent mailing address of the
13 applicant;

14 2. The proposed location of the youth camp; and

15 3. Any other information and fee that the Department
16 requires.

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

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

22 (ii) Except as provided in subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, the
23 Secretary may impose a fee for the purpose of inspecting, monitoring, and regulating youth
24 camps in accordance with § 2-104 of this article.

25 (iii) A camp accredited or certified in accordance with the provisions
26 of subsection (b)(9) of this section may not be charged a fee under the provisions of this
27 article.

28 **(IV) 1. IN THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, "FLOOD HAZARD AREA" HAS**
29 **THE MEANING STATED IN § 5-801 OF THE ENVIRONMENT ARTICLE.**

30 **2. THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT ISSUE OR RENEW A**
31 **CERTIFICATE UNDER THIS SECTION OR ACCEPT ALTERNATIVE ACCREDITATION**

1 UNDER THIS SUBTITLE IF ANY STRUCTURE THAT IS OR WILL BE USED TO HOUSE A
2 CAMPER IS LOCATED WITHIN A FLOOD HAZARD AREA.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 October 1, 2026.