

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 937 (Delegate Lehman, *et al.*)
Environment and Transportation

Workgroup to Study Youth Camp and RV Park Emergency Preparedness -
Established

This bill establishes the Workgroup to Study Youth Camp and RV Park Emergency Preparedness, staffed by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). Among other things, the workgroup must, if applicable, study model local emergency preparedness policies for youth camps and RV parks. The workgroup must submit its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by December 31, 2027. **The bill terminates September 30, 2028.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MDE can staff the workgroup with existing resources. Any expense reimbursements for workgroup members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect local government operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The workgroup must also (1) review recently enacted legislation in other states that addresses emergency preparedness policies for youth camps and RV parks, including in California and Texas; (2) create an inventory, disaggregated by county, of all youth camps and RV parks in the State; and (3) make recommendations regarding potential

legislation to address statewide emergency preparedness policies for youth camps and RV parks.

In creating the inventory, the workgroup must seek input from county and other local governments, tourism agencies, and entities responsible for permitting youth camps and RV parks in the State.

Current Law: “Camping trailer” means a vehicle that (1) is mounted on wheels and (2) has collapsible partial sidewalls that fold for towing by another vehicle and unfold to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel use. “Park model recreational vehicle” means a vehicle that (1) is designed and marketed as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use; (2) is not permanently affixed to real property for use as a permanent dwelling; (3) may require a special permit for highway use; (4) is built on a single chassis mounted on wheels; (5) has a gross trailer area not exceeding 400 square feet in the setup mode; and (6) is certified by the manufacturer to comply with national standards for recreational park trailers.

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is responsible for monitoring, inspecting, and certifying youth camps in the State. “Youth camp” means any day camp, residential camp, travel camp, or trip camp that (1) during a calendar year, accommodates at least seven campers who are unrelated to the person operating the camp; (2) provides primarily recreational activities or has a substantial outdoor recreational component; (3) has permanent buildings, temporary buildings, or no buildings; and (4) operates on owned or leased private property or facilities or public property or facilities.

By regulation, MDH requires each operator of a youth camp to prepare and implement a written emergency plan that includes procedures for camp staff members to (1) ensure camper safety during natural disasters, severe weather, and other emergencies; (2) evacuate campers; (3) account for campers and locate a missing camper; (4) use fire, rescue, police, and 9-1-1 services; (5) ensure emergency transportation; (6) notify the camper’s parent or guardian; (7) ensure camper safety until the camper’s parent, guardian, or parent’s or guardian’s designee picks up the camper; and (8) monitor for adverse weather conditions. Camp operators must ensure that each staff member is trained on the emergency plan and related emergency procedures. During severe weather, adequate shelter must be provided for the campers and camp staff members.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Emergency Management; Maryland Municipal League; Maryland Department of the Environment; Maryland Department of Health; Department of State Police; Department of Legislative Services

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jg/aad

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