JASON C. GALLION Legislative District 35 Harford and Cecil Counties

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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February 7th, 2025

The Honorable William Smith, Chair

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

RE: SB642 – Courts – Prohibited Liability Agreements – Indoor Trampoline Parks

Position: Favorable w/ Amendments

Dear Chairman Smith,

As SB 642 is drafted, it requires indoor trampoline parks to comply with current law prohibiting liability agreements while the rest of the businesses included under recreation facilities would be exempt. However, after consideration, I've provided two amendments for the committee to review.

The first amendment would exempt equestrian facilities from the prohibition on liability agreements, these are the only recreation facilities that have an animal involved. As you know, animals can be unpredictable, and I don't necessarily agree that these facilities should fit under the broad definition of a recreation facility. Throughout our laws, it's not uncommon for exemptions related to agriculture.

The second amendment would exempt recreation facilities that employ less than 50 people. This amendment seeks to protect the small businesses that are defined as recreation facilities. It's my understanding that as the current law is written, these businesses could be subject to a large increase in insurance premiums or must purchase insurance from the surplus market.

In closing, I would respectfully ask the committee to take a closer look at this legislation from last session and ensure that we're not leaving the small businesses affected vulnerable to unaffordable insurance premiums or costly frivolous lawsuits. With that, I ask for your favorable support with amendment(s).

Sincerely,

Jason Gallion

Senator, District 35

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