
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5256

AN ACT CONCERNING LIABILITY FOR INJURIES INHERENT IN CAMPING WHILE AT A PRIVATE CAMPGROUND.

SUMMARY

This bill requires that each camper (i.e., anyone who uses a private campground for camping or recreational vehicle camping) assume the risk for any injury to their person arising out of the hazards inherent in camping. In doing so, the bill limits private campground owners' liability (see below).

However, the bill specifies that it does not prevent suit or limit the liability of a private campground owner or operator who, while operating the private campground, does any of the following:

1. commits an act or omission that constitutes negligence;
2. intentionally causes the injury of another person;
3. acts with a disregard for the injured person's safety;
4. fails to use a degree of care that an ordinarily careful, prudent person would use under similar circumstances; or
5. fails to conspicuously post warning signs of a condition known to be dangerous at the private campground.

The bill also requires any written contract between a camper and (1) a private campground owner or (2) a private campground owner's employee or officer to contain, in clearly readable print, a warning notice stating that each camper assumes the risk for any injury to their person arising out of the hazards inherent in camping.

Under the bill, "camping" means all aspects of visiting, staying at,

using, and leaving a private campground, including using any lodging while at a private campground.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024

PRIVATE CAMPGROUND

For purposes of this bill, a “private campground” is any parcel or tract of land, including buildings and other structures on it, owned or operated by a private property owner where five or more campsites are made available for use as temporary living quarters for recreational camping, travel, or seasonal use. Under the bill, “private campground” includes recreational vehicle parks operated by a private property owner.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 35 Nay 0 (04/01/2024)