



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 511

February Session, 2024

House Bill No. 5256

House of Representatives, April 16, 2024

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. STAFSTROM of the 129th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

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

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Camper" means any person who uses a private campground for
3 the purpose of camping or recreational vehicle camping;
- 4 (2) "Camping" means all aspects of visiting, staying at, using and
5 leaving a private campground, including the use of lodging of all types
6 while at a private campground; and
- 7 (3) "Private campground" means any parcel or tract of land, including
8 buildings and other structures on such land, that is owned or operated
9 by a private property owner where five or more campsites are made
10 available for use as temporary living quarters for recreational camping,
11 travel or seasonal use. "Private campground" includes recreational
12 vehicle parks operated by a private property owner.

13 (b) Each camper shall assume the risk for any injury to their person
14 arising out of the hazards inherent in camping.

15 (c) Nothing in subsection (b) of this section shall prevent suit or limit
16 the liability of a private campground owner or operator who in the
17 operation of the private campground: (1) Commits an act or omission
18 that constitutes negligence; (2) intentionally causes the injury of another
19 person; (3) acts with a disregard for the safety of the person injured; (4)
20 fails to use a degree of care that an ordinarily careful prudent person
21 would use under similar circumstances; or (5) fails to conspicuously
22 post warning signs of a condition known to be dangerous at the private
23 campground.

24 (d) Any written contract entered into by a private campground owner
25 and a camper, or an employee or officer of a private campground owner
26 and a camper, shall contain in clearly readable print, a warning notice
27 stating that each camper shall assume the risk for any injury to their
28 person arising out of the hazards inherent in camping.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2024	New section

JUD *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill, which specifies that campers using private campgrounds assume risks inherent to camping, is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to the state or to municipalities. This is not expected to have a material impact on court operations.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

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)