

# Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5256

AN ACT CONCERNING LIABILITY FOR INJURIES INHERENT IN CAMPING

**Title:** WHILE AT A PRIVATE CAMPGROUND.

**Vote Date:** 4/1/2024

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/4/2024

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Judiciary Committee

## **CO-SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Rep. John E. Piscopo, 76th Dist.

Rep. Maria P. Horn, 64th Dist.

Rep. Cindy Harrison, 69th Dist.

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

Private campground owners have had incidences in the past where they were sued for someone being injured on their campground for a hazard that typically comes from camping. This bill would limit the liability for a private campground owner when someone gets injured for a hazard that is inherent in camping.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

None expressed.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Representative John Piscopo, CGA:** He testified in support of the bill, stating that the language needed to be carefully crafted to strike a balance between responsibility and protection. He explained that the intent of the bill is to help campground owners by establishing sensible responsibility for individuals who participate in outdoor activities while protecting the injured camper due to several factors.

Several individuals testified in support of the bill. They stated that the bill is considerate of both the campground owner and the campers in the event someone is injured and acknowledges that camping does come with possible risks, but that there is a need for a safe environment. They believe the bill provides fair and equitable treatment of both campers and campground owners. They furthered that the 48 campgrounds who belong to the Campground Owners Association are significant contributors to the state economy and want to provide an environment where they can grow, prosper, and provide a wonderful experience to visitors.

**Michelle S. Botelho, Owner, Circle C Campground**

**Monica Bragdon**

**William C. Brennan, Co-Owner, Campers World at Hopeville Pond,**

**Peter Brown, Owner, Lone Oak Campsites**

**Brian Cinea, Owner, Salem Farms Campground, LLC**

**Phil Cotnoir, Owner, Peppertree Camping**

**Melissa H. Engel, Owner, Markham Meadows Campground, LLC**

**Kim Gillette, President, Lake Williams Campground Association**

**Kathryn Hornat, Member, Laurel Lock Campground**

**Valerie B. Hornat, Co-owner, Laurel Lock Campground**

**Brian Korten, Chairman, Connecticut Campground Owners Association, Owner  
Water's Edge Campground**

**Nicola Leonetti, Owner, Stateline Campresort & Cabins**

**Brittany Mathis, Owner, The Quarry Campground**

**Priscilla Migliaccio, Hidden Acres Family Campground**

**David Nowakowski, Owner, Sunfox Campground**

**Priscilla Sherman, Owner/Manager, Acorn Acres Campground**

**Jim Whitney, Executive Director, Connecticut Campground Owners Association**

**Cynthia T. Zbierski, Executive Director, Northeast Campground Association, Inc.**

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Kevin Preston:** He testified in opposition to the bill. He stated that the legal system is broken and exploits a two-tier system to an unlimited degree; the two-tier system of one for the wealthy and one for the poor. He believes that it is your own fault if you are injured.

**Reported by:** Bonnie Gray

**Date:** 4-8-24