

HOUSE BILL 918

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CF SB 437

By: **Delegates Valentino-Smith and Hubbard**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2013

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health – Youth Camps – Definitions**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “day camp” to include certain youth
4 camps that have campers who reside at the camp for a certain number of days;
5 altering the definition of “residential camp” for purposes of certain provisions of
6 law governing youth camps to increase the number of days a youth camp may
7 operate as a residential camp; altering the definitions of “travel camp” and “trip
8 camp” to increase the number of days a residential camp may operate as a
9 travel camp or a trip camp; and generally relating to youth camps.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Health – General
12 Section 14–401
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
16 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – Health – General**

18 14–401.

19 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

20 (b) “Alternative accreditation” means a national camping standard that is
21 acceptable to the Secretary as providing adequate health and safety protection for the
22 campers, such as the American Camping Association standards for camp programs
23 and services and the Boy Scouts of America standards, which includes an annual
24 monitoring process to verify compliance with the standard.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (c) “Camper” means any child under 18 years of age who is attending a youth
2 camp.

3 (d) “Certificate” means a single certificate issued by the Department to a
4 youth camp under this subtitle.

5 (e) “Council” means the Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council.

6 (f) “Day” means all or part of a 24-hour period.

7 (g) “Day camp” means a youth camp that:

8 (1) (I) Is operated for all or part of the day but less than 24 hours a
9 day;

10 [(2)] (II) Is conducted for at least 7 days during a 3-week period; and

11 [(3)] (III) Provides 3 or more recreational activities or any 1
12 specialized activity including:

13 [(i)] 1. Aquatic programs;

14 [(ii)] 2. Horseback riding;

15 [(iii)] 3. Firearms control;

16 [(iv)] 4. Riflery;

17 [(v)] 5. Archery;

18 [(vi)] 6. Adventure camps;

19 [(vii)] 7. Artistic gymnastics;

20 [(viii)] 8. Hang gliding;

21 [(ix)] 9. Road cycling;

22 [(x)] 10. Skiing;

23 [(xi)] 11. Rock climbing;

24 [(xii)] 12. Spelunking;

25 [(xiii)] 13. Motorized vehicle activities;

1 [(xiv)] 14. Rappelling; or

2 [(xv)] 15. High ropes; OR

3 (2) OPERATES AT A FACILITY OR CAMPSITE AT WHICH A CAMPER
4 LIVES APART OR INTENDS TO LIVE APART FROM THE CAMPER'S RELATIVES,
5 PARENTS, OR LEGAL GUARDIANS FOR 5 CONSECUTIVE DAYS.

6 (h) "Occasional use" means periodic involvement in a program where there is
7 no expectation of regular attendance.

8 (i) "Operate" means to supervise, control, conduct, or manage a youth camp
9 as:

10 (1) An owner;

11 (2) An agent of the owner;

12 (3) A lessee of the owner;

13 (4) A director; or

14 (5) An independent contractor.

15 (j) "Residential camp" means a youth camp operating at a facility or
16 campsite at which a camper either lives apart or intends to live apart from the
17 camper's relatives, parents, or legal guardians for at least [5] 6 consecutive days.

18 (k) "Routine activity" means any type of activity other than a specialized
19 activity as set forth in subsection [(g)(3)] (G)(1)(III) of this section that is conducted
20 for children by a youth camp.

21 (l) "Travel camp" means a residential camp that:

22 (1) Operates for at least [5] 6 consecutive days; and

23 (2) Provides for campers to use motorized transportation to move as a
24 group to or among sites for experiences in different environments.

25 (m) "Trip camp" means a residential camp:

26 (1) That operates for at least [5] 6 consecutive days; and

27 (2) In which a group of individuals move from 1 site to another under
28 their own power or by transportation which permits individual guidance of a vehicle or
29 animal.

1 (n) “Unit” means a board, department, agency, or other component of a
2 county or a municipal corporation.

3 (o) “Youth camp” or “camp” means any day camp, residential camp, travel
4 camp, or trip camp that:

5 (1) Accommodates 7 or more campers who are unrelated to the person
6 operating the camp;

7 (2) Provides primarily recreational activities or has a substantial
8 outdoor recreational component;

9 (3) Has permanent buildings, temporary buildings, or no buildings;
10 and

11 (4) Operates on:

12 (i) Owned private property;

13 (ii) Owned private facilities;

14 (iii) Leased private property;

15 (iv) Leased private facilities;

16 (v) Public property; or

17 (vi) Public facilities.

18 (p) “Youth overnight program” means an activity sponsored by a religious or
19 a community organization at a facility or site at which an individual less than 18 years
20 old either lives apart or intends to live apart from the individual’s relatives, parent, or
21 legal guardians for fewer than 5 consecutive days.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 October 1, 2013.