H.B. No. 4372

AN ACT

relating to youth camp abuse complaints and compliance orders.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1.  Chapter 141, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Sections 141.0051 and 141.0085 to read as follows:

Sec. 141.0051.  LICENSE; CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN CONVICTIONS. In making a determination on issuance, renewal, or revocation of a youth camp operator's license, the department shall consider whether the youth camp employs an individual who was convicted of an act of sexual abuse, as defined by Section 21.02, Penal Code, that occurred at the camp.

Sec. 141.0085.  REPORTS OF ABUSE; DUTIES OF YOUTH CAMP OPERATOR. (a) The executive commissioner by rule shall establish a procedure for the department to forward a report of alleged abuse of a camper that is received by the department to the Department of Family and Protective Services or another appropriate agency.

(b)  If a law enforcement agency notifies a youth camp operator of the investigation or conviction of an individual who is employed by the camp for an act of sexual abuse, as defined by Section 21.02, Penal Code, that occurred at the camp, the operator shall:

(1)  immediately notify the department of the investigation or conviction; and

(2)  retain all records related to the investigation or conviction until the department notifies the camp that the record retention is no longer required.

SECTION 2.  Chapter 141, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Sections 141.0111 and 141.0112 to read as follows:

Sec. 141.0111.  REQUIRED INFORMATION ABOUT ABUSE REPORTING. A youth camp operator shall develop and maintain a written policy regarding the method for reporting to the department suspected abuse occurring at the camp. The operator on request of any person shall provide a copy of the policy to the person.

Sec. 141.0112.  REQUIRED NOTICE ABOUT YOUTH CAMP COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS. (a) The department shall post on the department's Internet website each youth camp compliance order issued by the department until at least the third anniversary of the date the compliance order was finally adjudicated.

(b)  A youth camp operator shall include on the camp's publicly accessible Internet website a clearly marked link to the youth camp program web page on the department's Internet website.

SECTION 3.  Notwithstanding Sections 141.0085, 141.0111, and 141.0112, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act, a youth camp operator is not required to comply with those sections until January 1, 2020.

SECTION 4.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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    President of the Senate Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 4372 was passed by the House on May 10, 2019, by the following vote:  Yeas 134, Nays 7, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 4372 on May 24, 2019, by the following vote:  Yeas 138, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 4372 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 21, 2019, by the following vote:  Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

                 Date

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               Governor