

By: Lalani

H.B. No. 174

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to emergency preparedness and safety requirements for youth camps.

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

SECTION 1. Section 141.009, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 141.009. STANDARDS. The executive commissioner by rule shall establish health and safety standards for youth camps. The standards may relate to:

(1) adequate and proper supervision at all times of camp activities;

(2) qualifications for directors, supervisors, and staff and sufficient numbers of those persons;

(3) proper safeguards for sanitation and public health;

(4) adequate medical services for personal health and first aid;

(5) proper procedures for food preparation, handling, and mass feeding;

(6) healthful and sufficient water supply;

(7) proper waste disposal;

(8) proper water safety procedures for swimming pools, lakes, and waterways;

(9) safe boating equipment;

- 1           (10) proper maintenance and safe use of motor  
2 vehicles;
- 3           (11) safe buildings and physical facilities;
- 4           (12) proper fire and flood precautions;
- 5           (13) safe and proper recreational and other equipment;
- 6           (14) proper regard for density and use of the  
7 premises; and
- 8           (15) records of criminal convictions of camp  
9 personnel.

10         SECTION 2. Chapter 141, Health and Safety Code, is amended  
11 by adding Sections 141.0091 and 141.0092 to read as follows:

12         Sec. 141.0091. EMERGENCY SAFETY REQUIREMENTS. (a) The  
13 department may not issue or renew a license for a youth camp under  
14 this chapter unless the youth camp operator provides to the  
15 department documentation showing the camp:

16           (1) does not provide overnight accommodations in a  
17 camp facility located within a flood plain;

18           (2) maintains personal flotation devices in each camp  
19 facility in which the camp provides overnight accommodations and  
20 that is located near a flood-prone area or waterway;

21           (3) maintains operable radios capable of providing  
22 real-time weather alerts in each camp facility in which the camp  
23 provides overnight accommodations;

24           (4) installs and maintains an emergency warning system  
25 at the camp that:

26           (A) is capable of alerting all campers and camp  
27 occupants of a flood, fire, or other imminent emergency or hazard;

1                   (B) integrates with:

2                   (i) the National Weather Service or a  
3 similar professional weather service;

4                   (ii) local emergency notification systems;  
5 and

6                   (iii) local river authorities;

7                   (C) includes a public address system operable  
8 without reliance on an Internet connection;

9                   (D) is capable of being manually triggered by  
10 camp staff; and

11                   (E) complies with all applicable requirements  
12 for an emergency warning system established by department rules or  
13 other law;

14                   (5) adopts a written emergency preparedness plan  
15 detailing:

16                   (A) evacuation and transportation procedures;

17                   (B) muster points;

18                   (C) the location and proper use of available  
19 emergency equipment, including:

20                   (i) items for extinguishing fires;

21                   (ii) beacons;

22                   (iii) flotation devices; and

23                   (iv) any other emergency equipment required  
24 by department rules;

25                   (D) protocols for notifying local emergency  
26 medical services providers;

27                   (E) information and procedures regarding the

1 camp's emergency warning system; and

2 (F) active shooter response protocols;

3 (6) provides the emergency preparedness plan  
4 described by Subdivision (5) to and obtains approval from the local  
5 agency responsible for providing emergency response services for  
6 the camp;

7 (7) adopts a written policy to provide a weekly  
8 notification to the local agency described by Subdivision (6) of  
9 the number of campers and other occupants present at the camp for  
10 that week;

11 (8) designates an emergency preparedness supervisor  
12 as required by Section 141.0092;

13 (9) adopts a written policy to provide to each camper  
14 and each camper's parent or legal guardian a digital or physical  
15 copy of the camp's emergency preparedness plan before each camp  
16 session begins; and

17 (10) conducts:

18 (A) not less than three evacuation drills each  
19 calendar year;

20 (B) appropriate safety drills during each camp  
21 session; and

22 (C) any other emergency or safety drill required  
23 by department rules or other law.

24 (b) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules necessary  
25 to implement this section.

26 Sec. 141.0092. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SUPERVISOR. (a) A  
27 youth camp operator shall designate a staff member as the emergency

1 preparedness supervisor for each camp session.

2 (b) The designated emergency preparedness supervisor is  
3 responsible for implementing and providing oversight of the camp's  
4 emergency preparedness plan. The supervisor shall:

5 (1) conduct required emergency training and drills at  
6 the camp;

7 (2) maintain the camp's emergency equipment; and

8 (3) ensure the camp is in compliance with Section  
9 141.0091 and rules adopted under that section.

10 (c) The executive commissioner may adopt rules prescribing  
11 qualifications and training required for an individual to be a  
12 youth camp's emergency preparedness supervisor.

13 SECTION 3. As soon as possible after the effective date of  
14 this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human  
15 Services Commission shall adopt rules necessary to implement  
16 Section 141.009, Health and Safety Code, as amended by this Act, and  
17 Sections 141.0091 and 141.0092, Health and Safety Code, as added by  
18 this Act.

19 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect on the 91st day after the  
20 last day of the legislative session.