

By: Kolkhorst

S.B. No. 60

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 Section 141.0091 to read as follows:

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

16 (1) maintains operable radios capable of providing
17 real-time weather alerts issued by the National Weather Service or
18 a similar professional weather service in each camp facility in
19 which the camp provides overnight accommodations;

20 (2) installs and maintains at the camp an emergency
21 warning system that:

22 (A) is capable of alerting all campers and camp
23 occupants of an emergency; and

24 (B) includes a public address system operable
25 without reliance on an Internet connection;

26 (3) monitors safety alerts issued:

27 (A) by the National Weather Service or a similar

1 professional weather service; and

2 (B) by local river authorities or through other
3 local emergency notification systems;

4 (4) adopts a written emergency preparedness plan
5 detailing:

6 (A) evacuation and transportation procedures;

7 (B) muster zones; and

8 (C) the location and proper use of available
9 emergency equipment, including:

10 (i) items for extinguishing fires;

11 (ii) beacons;

12 (iii) flotation devices; and

13 (iv) any other emergency equipment required
14 by department rules;

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

19 (6) provides a weekly notification to the local agency
20 described by Subdivision (5) of the number of campers and other
21 occupants present at the camp for that week;

22 (7) designates as an emergency preparedness
23 supervisor a staff member for the camp; and

24 (8) conducts appropriate safety drills during each
25 camp session.

26 (b) The executive commissioner shall adopt rules necessary
27 to implement this section.

1 SECTION 3. As soon as possible after the effective date of
2 this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human
3 Services Commission shall adopt rules necessary to implement
4 Section 141.009, Health and Safety Code, as amended by this Act, and
5 Section 141.0091, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act.

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