

By: Campos

H.B. No. 307

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to youth camp flood safety requirements and a study on and grants for flotation devices for youth camp cabins.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 141, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Sections 141.0091, 141.021, and 141.022 to read as follows:

Sec. 141.0091. FLOOD SAFETY REQUIREMENTS. (a) This section does not apply to a youth camp subject to a flood plan as designated under state or federal law.

(b) A youth camp operator shall for each youth camp cabin used as an overnight accommodation for campers provide:

(1) a life jacket for each camper assigned to the cabin; and

(2) life rafts with sufficient capacity to support the maximum number of campers that may be assigned to the cabin.

(c) The department shall monitor youth camps for compliance with this section and post reports of noncompliance on the department's Internet website.

Sec. 141.021. STUDY ON COST OF LIFE JACKETS AND LIFE RAFTS FOR YOUTH CAMPS. (a) The department shall conduct a study on the cost of providing youth camp cabins with:

(1) a life jacket for each camper assigned to the cabin; and

1 (2) life rafts with sufficient capacity to support the
2 maximum number of campers that may be assigned to the cabin.

3 (b) This section expires September 1, 2027.

4 Sec. 141.022. SAFETY MEASURE STATE GRANT PROGRAM. (a) The
5 department shall establish a program to award grants to cover 50
6 percent of the costs incurred by a youth camp operator to equip each
7 youth camp cabin with:

8 (1) a life jacket for each camper assigned to the
9 cabin; and

10 (2) life rafts with sufficient capacity to support the
11 maximum number of campers that may be assigned to the cabin.

12 (b) The legislature shall appropriate \$10 million for the
13 grant program established under this section.

14 (c) This section expires September 1, 2031.

15 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding Section 141.0091, Health and
16 Safety Code, as added by this Act, a youth camp operator who is
17 operating a youth camp on the effective date of this Act is not
18 required to comply with the requirements of that section until
19 January 1, 2029.

20 SECTION 3. The Department of State Health Services shall
21 complete the study required by Section 141.021, Health and Safety
22 Code, as added by this Act, not later than April 1, 2026.

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