



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 645

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 6241

House of Representatives, April 10, 2025

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. PARKER of the 101st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING AGRITOURISM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section:

3 (1) "Agriculture" has the same meaning as provided in section 1-1 of
4 the general statutes;

5 (2) "Agritourism" means any agriculture-related educational,
6 entertainment, historical, cultural or recreational activity, including, but
7 not limited to, you-pick operations, corn mazes, hay rides or farm
8 markets that are conducted on a farm which allows or invites members
9 of the general public to observe or participate in such activity;

10 (3) "Agritourism provider" means any person who owns, operates,
11 provides or sponsors an agritourism activity or an employee of such a
12 person who engages in or provides agritourism activities, whether or
13 not for a fee;

14 (4) "Farm" means land that is composed of tracts, lots or parcels that
15 are devoted to agriculture;

16 (5) "Participant" means any individual, other than the agritourism
17 provider providing such activity, who observes or participates in an
18 agritourism activity; and

19 (6) "Risk inherent in an agritourism activity" means any danger or
20 condition that is an integral part of an agritourism activity, including
21 each of the following:

22 (A) The surface and subsurface conditions of land;

23 (B) The behavior or actions of wild animals not kept by or under the
24 control of an agritourism provider;

25 (C) The behavior or actions of livestock or domestic animals, other
26 than damage by dogs, as described in section 22-357 of the general
27 statutes;

28 (D) The ordinary dangers associated with land, structures, animals or
29 equipment ordinarily used in agriculture or agritourism activities;

30 (E) The possibility of personal injury, property damage or contracting
31 illness from proximity to, or physical contact with structures,
32 equipment, animals, animal feed, farm chemicals or animal waste; or

33 (F) The possibility that a participant may act in a negligent manner,
34 including by failing to follow instructions given by the agritourism
35 provider or by failing to exercise reasonable care while engaging in the
36 agritourism activity that may contribute to personal injury or property
37 damage to such participant or another participant.

38 (b) In any civil action, an agritourism provider shall be immune from
39 liability for any personal injury or property damage a participant
40 sustains during an agritourism activity if the participant incurs personal
41 injury or property damage as a result of a risk inherent in an agritourism
42 activity.

43 (c) An agritourism provider shall not be immune from civil liability
44 for harm sustained by a participant if any of the following applies:

45 (1) The agritourism provider acts negligently or with a wilful or
46 wanton disregard for the safety of the participant;

47 (2) The agritourism provider purposefully causes personal injury or
48 property damage to the participant; or

49 (3) The agritourism provider's actions or inactions constitute criminal
50 conduct and cause personal injury or property damage to the
51 participant.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2025	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill has no fiscal impact by granting immunity from civil liability to certain agritourism businesses. The court system disposes of over 250,000 cases annually and the number of cases potentially impacted is not anticipated to be great enough to result in savings.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6241*****AN ACT CONCERNING AGRITOURISM.*****SUMMARY**

This bill grants immunity from civil liability to agritourism businesses that offer the general public the opportunity to observe or participate in agriculture-related activities on a farm (e.g., you-pick operations, corn mazes, hay rides, farm markets), whether or not for a fee. Under the bill, an agritourism provider (i.e. an agritourism activity's owner, operator, or sponsor and their employee) is not civilly liable for a participant's property damage or personal injury resulting from an agritourism activity's inherent risks (see below).

The bill provides limitations on the immunity granted. Specifically, an agritourism provider will be liable for harm to a participant if the provider (1) acts negligently or with willful or wanton disregard for the participant's safety, (2) purposely causes a participant's personal injury or property damage, or (3) commits criminal conduct that causes a participant's personal injury or property damage.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

INHERENT RISKS

Under the bill, a "risk inherent in an agritourism activity" is any danger or condition that is an integral part of the activity, including the following:

1. the land's surface and subsurface conditions;
2. the behavior or actions of wild animals that the agritourism provider does not keep or control;
3. the behavior or actions of livestock or domestic animals (other

than damage by a dog when the dog is not provoked);

4. ordinary dangers associated with land, structures, animals, or equipment typically used in agriculture or agritourism activities;
5. the possibility of sustaining injury, property damage, or illness from being near to or having contact with structures, equipment, animals, animal feed, farm chemicals, or animal waste; and
6. the possibility that an activity participant may act negligently, including by not (a) following the agritourism provider's instructions or (b) exercising reasonable care during the activity.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 32 Nay 0 (03/24/2025)