OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 25-74—HB 6982 Judiciary Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING LIABILITY FOR INJURIES INHERENT IN CAMPING WHILE AT A PRIVATE CAMPGROUND

SUMMARY: This act limits the liability of certain private campground owners and operators. It does so by requiring that each "camper" (i.e. anyone who uses a private campground for camping or recreational vehicle camping) assume the risk for any injury to their person from the hazards inherent in camping.

However, the act specifies that it does not prevent suit or limit the liability of a private campground owner or operator who, while operating the campground, does any of the following:

- 1. commits an act or omission that constitutes negligence;
- 2. intentionally causes the injury of another person;
- 3. acts with a disregard for the injured person's safety;
- 4. fails to use a degree of care that an ordinarily careful, prudent person would use in similar circumstances; or
- 5. fails to conspicuously post warning signs about a condition known to be dangerous at the campground.

The act also requires any written contract between a camper and a private campground owner (or a private campground owner's employee or officer) to contain, in clearly readable print, a warning notice stating that each camper assumes the risk for any injury to their person from the hazards inherent in camping.

Under the act, "camping" is all aspects of visiting, staying at, using, and leaving a private campground, including using any lodging while at a private campground. A "private campground" is any parcel or tract of land, including buildings and other structures on it, owned or operated by a private property owner where five or more campsites are made available for use as temporary living quarters for recreational camping, travel, or seasonal use. It includes recreational vehicle parks operated by a private property owner.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025