

2024 -- H 7154

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- LICENSING OF YOUTH CAMPS

Introduced By: Representatives Craven, Caldwell, Shanley, and O'Brien

Date Introduced: January 11, 2024

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 23 of the General Laws entitled "HEALTH AND SAFETY" is hereby  
2 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 21.2

4 LICENSING OF YOUTH CAMPS

5 **23-21.2-1. Definitions.**

6 When used in this chapter:

7 (1) "Adequate" means that which is needed to accomplish the intended purpose in keeping  
8 with good public health practice.

9 (2) "Day camp" means a camp operated for less than twenty-four (24) hours in any one  
10 day, not including family day care homes as defined in § 23-28.1-5 or child day care centers as  
11 defined in § 23-75-2. Day campers will be limited to two (2) overnight programs per week.

12 (3) "Department" means the department of human services.

13 (4) "Director" means the director of the department of human services.

14 (5) "Residential camp" means a camp which provides overnight facilities.

15 (6) "Youth camp" means any day camp or residential camp which conducts a program for  
16 ten (10) or more campers.

17 **23-21.2-2. Requirements for licensing of youth camps.**

18 To be eligible for the issuance or renewal of a youth camp license, the camp shall satisfy  
19 the following requirements:

1           (1) The location of the camp shall be such as to provide adequate potable water and afford  
2 facilities for obtaining readily available potable water;

3           (2) Each dwelling unit, building and structure shall be maintained in good condition,  
4 suitable for the use to which it is intended, and shall present no health or fire hazard as so certified  
5 by the department of health and the state fire marshal or local fire marshal, and if required, as  
6 indicated by a current fire marshal certificate dated within the past year and available on site when  
7 the youth camp is in operation;

8           (3) There shall be an adequate and competent staff of good character and reputation,  
9 consisting of:

10           (i) The youth camp director or assistant director, one of whom shall be on site at all times  
11 the camp is in operation;

12           (ii) Activities specialists;

13           (iii) Counselors; and

14           (iv) Maintenance personnel;

15           (4) Each camp staff member over the age of eighteen (18) years shall be required to obtain  
16 a criminal records background check from the bureau of criminal identification and investigation  
17 division of the state police, local police department, or the office of the attorney general;

18           (5) All youth camp staff shall be trained, at a minimum, on the camp's policies and  
19 procedures pertaining to behavioral management and supervision, emergency health and safety  
20 procedures and recognizing, preventing and reporting child abuse and neglect in accordance with  
21 § 40-11-3;

22           (6) All hazardous activities, including, but not limited to, archery, aquatics, horseback  
23 riding and firearms instruction, shall be supervised by a qualified activities specialist who has  
24 adequate experience and training in such area of specialty;

25           (7) The staff of a residential and day camp shall at all times include an individual trained  
26 in the administration of first aid as required by the director;

27           (8) Records of personal data for each camper shall be kept in any reasonable form. The  
28 form shall include:

29           (i) The camper's name, age and address;

30           (ii) The name, address and telephone number of the parents or guardian;

31           (iii) The dates of admission and discharge; and

32           (iv) Such other information as required by the department; and

33           (9) Any youth camp licensed under this chapter shall operate only as the type of camp  
34 authorized by such license. Such camps shall not advertise any service they are not equipped or

1 [licensed to offer. The license shall be posted in a conspicuous place at youth camp headquarters](#)  
2 [and failure to so post the license shall result in the presumption that the camp is being operated in](#)  
3 [violation of this chapter.](#)

4 **23-21.2-3. Inspections of facilities.**

5 [The department shall inspect or cause to be inspected the facilities to be operated by an](#)  
6 [applicant for an original license before the license shall be granted and shall annually thereafter](#)  
7 [inspect or cause to be inspected the facilities of all licensees.](#)

8 **23-21.2-4. Rules and regulations.**

9 [The department shall promulgate rules and regulations deemed necessary to implement the](#)  
10 [purposes of this chapter.](#)

11 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- LICENSING OF YOUTH CAMPS

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- 1 This act would establish the procedures and requirements for the licensing of youth camps.
- 2 This act would take effect on January 1, 2025.

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