

HB 1070 -- PRIVATE CAMPGROUND LIABILITY

SPONSOR: Hudson

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Committee on Tourism by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill prohibits an owner, employee, or officer of a private campground from being liable for acts related to camping at a private campground if the injury or damage occurred as a result of an inherent risk of camping, as described within the bill. This bill does not apply to actions arising under Missouri Workers' Compensation Law. Additionally, this bill does not prevent or limit liability of an owner, employee, or officer who intentionally causes injury, death, or damage, who acts with a willful or wanton disregard for the safety of the person or property damaged, who fails to use the degree of care that an ordinarily careful and prudent person would use under the circumstances, or who fails to conspicuously post warning signs of known dangerous conditions on the property. Warning signs are required to appear in black letters of at least one inch in height on a white background. Warning signs and written contracts entered into by an owner, employee, or officer shall contain a warning notice, as specified in the bill.

This bill is the same as HB 72 (2021) and SCS SB 783 (2020).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the problem is that people are attracted to recreational pursuits like camping because they take you into the wild and primitive that is nature. However, some people then get upset because things are not always safe and predictable. Campgrounds have rocks and tree roots, and uneven surfaces that people trip over, snakes and bugs and animals that bite, and fires that burn things and people who are not careful.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hudson. There was also written testimony submitted in support of the bill.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.