

House Bill No. 440 - Youth Camps

AN ACT concerning

Youth Camps

FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to ~~license and regulate~~ submit legislation concerning the licensing and regulation of certain youth camps operated in this State; providing definitions; ~~providing penalties;~~ providing for the creation of an Advisory Council on Youth Camps; and generally relating to the operation of youth camps.

May 29, 1978

Honorable John Hanson Briscoe
Speaker of the House of Delegates
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 440.

This bill creates a Youth Camp Safety Advisory Council and allows the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, with the assistance of the Council, to submit to the next General Assembly, legislation to establish minimum safety standards for youth camps.

This measure, as introduced, sought the establishment of standards to provide to each camper under the age of 18 safe and healthful conditions, facilities and equipment and adequate supervision and protect them from hazards causing death or physical injury.

Amendments to House Bill 440 expressly exclude youth camps operated by religious, educational, and other similar corporations. The effect of this amendment is the exclusion of an estimated 95 percent of the youth camps in this State from the purview of the bill.

The provisions creating the Advisory Council do not reflect these amendments. Although criteria for selection of the Council is prescribed, the Council membership could be composed without participation by owners or operators of the profit-camps that are the subject of this measure.

I fully support the purposes of this bill. But I believe that the protections which it seeks to establish