



Updates on Implementation of New Youth Camp Legislation

October 10, 2025



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Outline



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- Overview
- New Requirements
- Fees Update
- What to Expect Next and Timeline

Overview

- [House Bill 1 \(HB 1\)](#), the Youth Camp Alert, Mitigation, Preparedness, and Emergency Response (Youth CAMPER) Act; and [Senate Bill 1 \(SB 1\)](#), The Heaven's 27 Camp Safety Act, were passed during the Second Special Legislative Session, and signed into law by the Governor on September 5, 2025.



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Overview: New Youth Camp Legislation

- This legislation went into effect on September 5, 2025.
- The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is working to implement.
- These bills make changes to Health and Safety Code (HSC) Chapter 141, Youth Camps, regulating Youth Camps.



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Overview: New Youth Camp Legislation

- DSHS is reviewing the Youth Camp Program and the new law and will make any necessary updates to the Youth Camp Rules as outlined in Title 25, Texas Administrative Code (25 TAC) Chapter 265, Subchapter B, Texas Youth Camps Safety and Health.
- Pieces of the legislation must be enacted in rule by January 1, 2026.



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Overview: New Youth Camp Legislation

- All current administrative rules remain in effect until new administrative rules, procedures and definitions have been formally adopted.
- Throughout this process DSHS will communicate steps in the rulemaking process via email and with updates to our website.



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Overview: New Youth Camp Legislation

- As with all rulemaking, members of the public will have the opportunity to comment on the proposed rules, and DSHS will consider those comments before any new rules are adopted.



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Overview: Licensing Paused

- Due to anticipated changes, DSHS has temporarily paused licensing for the upcoming 2026 Youth Camp season until the new rules are adopted in January of 2026.



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New Legislative Requirements



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- Requirements for All Camps
- Floodplain/Floodway-Based Requirements
- DSHS and State Partner Requirements
- Internet Service Requirements

Requirements for All Camps

- HSC §141.0091 requires emergency plans for each youth camp specifying muster zones and procedures for:
 - ▶ responding to specific events;
 - ▶ identifying and accounting for campers during an emergency;
 - ▶ notifying and communicating with emergency management, camp staff and parents; and
 - ▶ designating a camp emergency preparedness coordinator.



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Requirements for All Camps

- HSC §141.0091 requires a youth camp operator to maintain an operable weather radio that receives real-time weather alerts from the National Weather Service or a similar professional weather service.



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Requirements for All Camps

- HSC §141.0091 requires a youth camp operator to install and maintain at the camp an emergency warning system that is capable of alerting all camp occupants and includes a public address system that is operable without reliance on internet.



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Requirements for All Camps

- HSC §141.0091 requires a youth camp operator monitor safety alerts that are issued by the National Weather Service, local river authorities, or other local emergency notification systems.
- HSC §141.0091 requires emergency plans to be annually submitted to DSHS for approval.



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Requirements for All Camps

- HSC §141.0091 requires youth camp operators post in each cabin the proper evacuation route as described in the camp's emergency plan and ensure that the route is illuminated at night.



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Requirements for All Camps

- HSC §141.0091 requires youth camps to conduct mandatory safety training within 48 hours of the camp session beginning that informs campers of the camps boundaries and hazards, instructs campers on behavioral expectations in an emergency event, and provides each camper developmentally appropriate instruction on the actions and procedures to follow in an emergency event.



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Requirements for All Camps

- HSC §141.0091 requires youth camp operators to provide the emergency plan to the parent or guardian a camper participating in a camp session or a prospective camper who is registered to participate in a future camp session.



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Requirements for All Camps

- HSC §141.0091 provides a 45-day correction window for camps that submit an insufficient emergency plan.
- HSC §141.0091 requires camps to submit their approved emergency plan within 10 days to the emergency management coordinator for the county and municipality, if applicable, in which the youth camp is located.



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Requirements for All Camps

- HSC §141.0091 all the new requirements in HSC Chapter 762 pertaining to campgrounds are applicable to youth camps
- HSC Chapter 762 defines “cabin”, campground”, “campground operator”, “floodplain” and “governmental entity”.
- HSC §762.002 requires campground operators to install and maintain a ladder in each cabin that is located in a floodplain that is capable of providing access to the cabin’s roof.



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Requirements for All Camps

- HSC §762.002 requires campground operators to develop an emergency evacuation plan for evacuating campground occupants on issuance of a flash flood or flood warning;
- evacuating campground occupants on issuance of an evacuation order by an emergency management director or coordinator for the county or municipality; and,
- sheltering campground occupants in place on issuance of a tornado warning or shelter-in-place order.



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Requirements for All Camps

- HSC §762.002 requires campground operators to implement the evacuation plan on the issuance by the National Weather Service of a flash flood, flood warning or tornado warning.
- HSC §762.002 requires campground operators to submit their emergency evacuation plan to the emergency coordinator for the municipality or county where the campground is located.



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Requirements for All Camps

- HSC §762.003 requires a campground to comply with the National Fire Protection Association 1194, Standard for Recreation Vehicle Parks and Campgrounds, 2021 Edition, other than Sections 1.1.1 and 5.1.1.1.



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Requirements for All Camps

- HSC §141.071 requires youth camp operators to include in a prominent place on the youth camp website a clearly marked link to the Texas Department of State Health Service Youth Camp Program webpage for campers, parents, camp staff and volunteers to use to report non-compliance with this chapter.



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Requirements for All Camps

- HSC §141.093 requires youth camp operators to notify the department of any modifications to any structures on the youth camp that are used to facilitate youth camp activities as well as of any changes in the location of a camp activity on the camp's premises. The department may require updates to the youth camp's emergency plans based on this notification.



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Requirements for All Camps

- HSC §141.094 prohibits the department from renewing or issuing a license to a youth camp that is not in compliance with §141.071 §141.0091, §141.0092, or rules adopted under those sections. It also grants the department the authority to suspend a license if the youth camp is in violation of §141.0091 or §141.0092.



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Requirements All Camps

- HSC §141.0092 requires camps to provide and maintain internet service through a broadband service that connects using end-to-end fiber optic facilities, as well as a secondary internet connection through a broadband service that is distinct from the camp's primary internet service.



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Floodplain/Floodway-Based Requirements

- SB 1 and HB 1 require DSHS to implement the following new provisions of the law:
 - ▶ HSC §141.002 creates definitions of “cabin”, “floodplain”, “floodway” and “governmental entity”
 - ▶ HSC §141.002 initiates a license renewal process for camps that alter the boundaries of the camp, add cabins to the camp, decrease or increase the number of beds in a cabin or alter the method of entrance or exit to a cabin.



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Floodplain/Floodway-Based Requirements

- HSC §141.0052 prohibits licensure of a youth camp with cabins within a floodplain, with the following exceptions for cabins:
 - ▶ located by a lake, pond or other still body of water that is not connected to a stream, river or other watercourse; or
 - ▶ is either
 - ◊ dammed; or
 - ◊ at least 1,000 feet from a floodway.



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Floodplain/Floodway-Based Requirements

- HSC §141.0091 requires youth camp operators to notify parents/guardians if any part of the camp is located within a floodplain and ensure that parents/guardians sign and submit a statement acknowledging receipt of that notice.



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DSHS and State Partner Requirements

- HSC §141.081 creates the Youth Camp Safety Multidisciplinary Team, which will be composed of one representative from each of the following:
 - ▶ Department of State Health Services;
 - ▶ Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM);
 - ▶ Texas Department of Insurance State Fire Marshal's Office;
 - ▶ Parks and Wildlife Department;
 - ▶ Texas Water Development Board;
 - ▶ Texas A&M Forest Service; and
 - ▶ Texas Department of Public Safety.



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DSHS and State Partner Requirements

- HSC §141.0056 requires DSHS to post, maintain and update on the website a list of each youth camp with an active license.
- HSC §141.008 requires DSHS to establish camper to counselor ratios for overnight stays at youth camps by rule.



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DSHS and State Partner Requirements

- HSC §141.0091 requires DSHS to create a digital database for youth camp emergency plans that can be accessed by TDEM and each member of the Youth Camp Safety Multidisciplinary Team.



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DSHS and State Partner Requirements

- HSC §141.071 requires DSHS to investigate each complaint filed with the department for a youth camp to ensure that camp operators are properly implementing the emergency plan as outlined by this chapter.



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Revising Fees



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- DSHS is generally required to set licensing fees in amounts sufficient to cover program costs
- SB 5 (89-2) appropriated DSHS funding with the following requirement:

“Contingent on the enactment of SB 1 or similar legislation...the amount of \$2,594,265 is appropriated...to the Department of State Health Services to implement the provisions of that legislation.

“The department shall adjust the amount of license fees established under Section 141.0035, Health and Safety Code, as necessary to recover the costs of the appropriations made under this subsection.”

Revising Fees

- DSHS is working to determine changes to both the fee structure and amounts in alignment with SB 5.
 - **Current structure:** fees based on the number of days a camp operates,
 - **Potential new structure:** Based on the number of campers attending per year
- The following slides show sample fee amounts, based on estimates of the number of camps in each category that would result in recovery of the appropriation.
- DSHS will annually review fee collections and adjust the fees if the fee structure is overcollecting.



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Sample Day Camp Fee Structure

Category		Amount
Initial Day	Small (< 100)	\$2,600
Initial Day	Med (100 to 300)	\$2,800
Initial Day	Large (301 to 500)	\$3,000
Initial Day	X-Large (> 500)	\$3,200
Renewal Day	Small (< 100)	\$2,000
Renewal Day	Med (100 to 300)	\$2,200
Renewal Day	Large (301 to 500)	\$2,400
Renewal Day	X-Large (> 500)	\$2,600



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Sample Residential Camp Fee Structure

Category		Amount
Initial Residential	Small (< 100)	\$9,600
Initial Residential	Med (100 to 300)	\$10,100
Initial Residential	Large (301 to 500)	\$10,600
Initial Residential	X-Large (> 500)	\$11,100
<i>Renewal Residential</i>	Small (< 100)	\$9,000
<i>Renewal Residential</i>	Med (100 to 300)	\$9,500
<i>Renewal Residential</i>	Large (301 to 500)	\$10,000
<i>Renewal Residential</i>	X-Large (> 500)	\$10,500



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What to Expect Next and Timeline



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January 1, 2026

- Initial Rules Effective

January 2026

- Accepting Applications for 2026 Season

On or Before April 1, 2026

- Applications/Emergency Plans must be submitted to DSHS

Summer/Fall 2026

- Multidisciplinary Team formed; work begins

As Needed

- Additional rules and fees updates

What if I have questions?

- If you have any questions regarding House Bill 1 or Senate Bill 1, or the rule implementation process, please contact the Youth Camp Program at 512-834-6788 or at PHSCPS@dshs.texas.gov.
- Stay up to date with any changes by visiting the Youth Camp Program website at [Youth Camp Program | Texas DSHS](#).
- If you haven't already done so, you may join our mailing list by signing up for updates on our [Youth Camp Website](#).

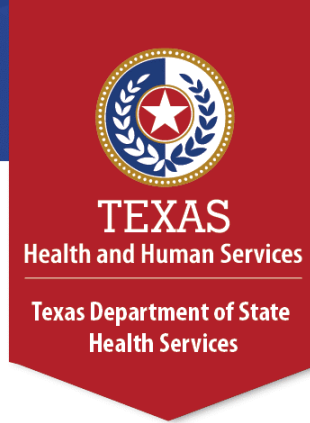


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Thank you!

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