



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

**2015 Wisconsin Act 293**  
[2015 Assembly Bill 174]

**Immunity of Private Campgrounds**

2015 Wisconsin Act 293 creates immunity from civil liability for a private campground in certain circumstances.

Under the Act, a private campground, an owner or operator of a private campground, and any employees and officers of a private campground, owner, or operator are immune from civil liability for acts or omissions related to camping at a private campground if a person is injured or killed, or property is damaged, as a result of an inherent risk of camping. "Inherent risk of camping" means a danger or condition that is an integral part of camping, including dangers posed by any of the following:

- Features of the natural world, such as trees, tree stumps, roots, brush, rocks, mud, sand, and soil.
- Uneven or unpredictable terrain.
- Natural bodies of water.
- Another camper or visitor at the private campground acting in a negligent manner, where the campground owner or employees are not involved.
- A lack of lighting, including lighting at campsites.
- Campfires in a fire pit or enclosure provided by the campground.
- Weather.
- Insects, birds, and other wildlife.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.

However, the Act provides that the immunity does not apply if the person seeking immunity does any of the following:

- Intentionally causes the injury, death, or property damage.
- Acts with a willful or wanton disregard for the safety of the party or the property damaged. “Willful or wanton disregard” means conduct committed with an intentional or reckless disregard for the safety of others.
- Fails to conspicuously post warning signs of a dangerous inconspicuous condition known to him or her on the property that he or she owns, leases, rents, or is otherwise in lawful control of or possession.

*Effective date:* April 1, 2016. The Act first applies to acts or omissions that occur on April 1, 2016.

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