

THE CAMPAIGN FOR CAMP SAFETY

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Camp Safety Bill Hearing in Missouri House Emerging Issues Committee

Parents of the “Heaven’s 27” and others to testify in support of the legislation.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — March 2, 2026 – Today at 4:30 pm, the Missouri House Emerging Issues Committee will convene to hear [House Bill 3142](#). This camp safety legislation was filed in honor of the 25 campers and two counselors (“Heaven’s 27”) who died while in the care of Camp Mystic in Hunt, Texas, during the devastating July 4, 2025, flash floods. A livestream will be available [here](#). Several parents of the “Heaven’s 27” are expected to attend the hearing and testify in support of the bill.

This critical safety legislation is sponsored by House Judiciary Chair, Rep. Cameron Parker (R-District 150) with a companion bill filed by Sen. Nick Schroer in the Missouri Senate. The goal is to address the longtime lack of regulation of Missouri summer camps by requiring camps to obtain safety licenses issued by the state. To obtain these licenses, camps will need to meet common-sense safety standards, in alignment with the core pillars of Prevention, Detection, Training and Response, including:

- Inspections to ensure compliance with baseline safety regulations and requiring criminal background checks for summer camp staff;
- Effective emergency warning and alert systems;
- Mandatory staff training for health, safety, and emergency response;
- Emergency preparedness, including clear hazardous weather protocols and evacuation procedures;
- Communication requirements to ensure parents are properly informed about emergencies when relevant.

Currently, Missouri law does not require summer camps to be licensed and mandatory criminal background checks on summer camp staff aren’t required. Alabama has filed the “Sarah Marsh Heaven’s 27 Camp Safety Act,” which passed the House chamber unanimously and awaits Senate action. Other states with active camp safety bills this session include Maryland and Oklahoma.

The Campaign for Camp Safety was launched by a coalition of parents of the 27 girls (“Heaven’s 27”) who lost their lives while in the care of Camp Mystic in Hunt, Texas, during the July 2025 floods. From the deepest grief has come a commitment: to ensure other families never suffer the same heartbreak and preventable loss. The Campaign for Camp Safety’s mission is to ensure that the American tradition of summer camp continues, while avoiding preventable disasters and harm to children. Learn more at CampaignForCampSafety.com.

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