



SENATE BILL 257: 2026 Appropriations Act, Section. 5A.17: Hotel Safety Act Modifications

2025-2026 General Assembly

Analysis of: S.L. 2026-41, Section. 5A.17

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Section 5A.17 of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257) requires innkeepers to provide suitable lodging accommodations for persons who are accepted as guests in an "emergency or disaster declared occupancy."

The section defines "emergency or disaster declared occupancy" as the rental of an accommodation such as an apartment, inn, hotel, motel, recreational vehicle park, campground, or similar lodging to the same guest or occupant who meets all of the following criteria:

- The guest or occupant is renting the accommodation because of one of the following:
 - An emergency declared by the Governor or the General Assembly.
 - A disaster declared by the Governor.
 - A major disaster declared by the President of the United States.
- The guest or occupant is a recipient of Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery assistance and is renting the accommodation during the repair or reconstruction of the guest's or occupant's home through a program administered by the Department of Commerce.

This section became effective July 1, 2026.

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