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CONNECTICUT

H.B. 5101 LICENSING FOR POOL/SPA (HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS)

Sponsor:

Representative John Piscopo (R)

Summary:

Current version (3/30/2015): Stipulates that the Department of Public Health shall classify public pools into one of the following categories: (A) Public swimming pool, which is a pool used or intended to be used for recreational bathing, swimming or water recreation activities; (B) Public wading pool, which is a pool principally used or intended to be used for wading and recreational bathing by small children; (C) Public spa, which is a pool used for recreational bathing in conjunction with a high-velocity air system, a high-velocity water recirculation system, hot water, cold water, a mineral bath or any combination thereof; (D) Public diving pool, which is a pool used solely for diving or the instruction and practicing of diving techniques; or (E) Special purpose public pool, which is a pool used for a specialized purpose, including, but not limited to, a splash pad or spray park where the water is re-circulated, water flume, pool used for scuba diving instruction, therapeutic pool, hydrotherapy pool or a pool used in an aquatics program for handicapped persons.

Specifies that the Commissioner on Public Health is charge the following fees for the following services: (A) Review of plans for a public pool, \$750 ; (B) review of a resubmitted plan for a public pool,\$250; (C) initial inspection of a public pool, \$200; and (D) any subsequent inspection of a public pool, \$150.

Defines "flotation vessel" as a tank devoid of light and sound and containing salt water in which a person floats for purposes including, but not limited to, meditation, relaxation and alternative medicine.

Defines public pool, for the purposes of this measure, as an artificial basin constructed of concrete, steel, fiberglass or other impervious material and equipped with a controlled water supply that is intended for recreational bathing, swimming, diving or therapeutic purposes and includes, but is not limited to, any related equipment, structure, area or enclosure intended for the use of any person using or staffing such pool.

Current version (3/30/2015):

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/phdata/sl/2015HB-05101-R00LCO05952-0330PH-SL.PDF>

Amended version (3/13/2015):

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/h/pdf/2015HB-05101-R01-HB.pdf>

Introduced version:

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/H/2015HB-05101-R00-HB.htm>

Status:

Introduced; referred to Joint Committee on Public Health 1/6/2015. Public hearing held 3/4/2015. Committee meeting held; voted to draft 3/13/2015. Re-referred to Joint Committee on Public Health 3/26/2015. Substituted; passed Committee 3/30/2015

Outlook:

The measure passed the Joint Committee on Public Health as substituted 25-0. The substitute only made a technical change to the bill. This measure has been filed with the Legislative Commissioners' Office to be checked for constitutionality and consistency with other laws. The measure will next be referred to another committee or to the House floor. If the measure is referred to another committee it will have seven days to vote on the measure from the day it was referred to the committee.

The Committee meet March 13 and voted to draft this measure as a Committee bill. This meeting was not open to the public. The Committee bill draft provides flushed out text for this measure and differentiates between the classification of different types of pools and fees associated for inspection and licensing.

During the March 4 hearing, the town of Harwington and an owner of a wellness center testified in support of the measure. According to the sponsor he introduced this measure because he was contacted by a constituent, who attempted to install two 4' x 8' salt water therapy tubs into their therapy center. However, current statute states that a pool, regardless of its' size are to be classified as Olympic swimming pools and the application fees associated with this classification is \$2,000 per pool. The sponsor stated that changing the current law will help create an affordable way for business and spas to expand services they can offer and even create jobs.

This measure has been introduced by a member of the minority party. The Democratic Party controls the House, Senate and the Governor's Office

H.B. 6311 - BUILDING CODES

Sponsor:

Representative James Albis (D)

Summary:

Allows municipalities to adopt a building code that is more stringent than the standards imposed by the State Building Code.

<http://cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/H/2015HB-06311-R00-HB.htm>

Status:

Introduced; referred to Joint Committee on Public Safety 1/21/2015. Failed legislative deadline 2/5/2015.

Outlook:

This measure failed to receive consideration before the February 5 committee reporting deadline. It is unlikely that this measure will receive any additional consideration.

H.B. 6888 - BUILDING CODES

Sponsor:

CT Joint Committee on Public Health

Summary:

Allows the Commissioner of Public Health to establish public swimming pool design guidelines without adopting such guidelines as regulations for purposes of establishing minimum standards for the proper construction and maintenance of public swimming pools.

<http://cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/H/2015HB-06888-R00-HB.htm>

Status:

Introduced; referred to Joint Committee on Public Health 2/23/2015. Failed legislative deadline 4/1/2015.

Outlook:

This measure failed to receive consideration before the April 1 committee reporting deadline. It is unlikely that this measure will receive any additional consideration.

H.B. 6969 - LICENSING FOR POOL/SPA (HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS)

Sponsor:

CT Joint Committee on Public Safety and Security

Current version (3/19/2015):

States that no person shall install a swimming pool unless such person holds a swimming pool

installer's license issued by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection.

Exempts any person who installs a swimming pool on residential property from this provision.

Current version (3/19/2015):

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/H/2015HB-06969-R01-HB.htm>

Introduced version:

<http://cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/H/2015HB-06969-R00-HB.htm>

Status:

Introduced; referred to Joint Committee on Public Safety and Security 3/4/2015. Hearing held 3/12/2015. Hearing held; substituted; passed 3/19/2015. Referred to Legislative Commissioner's Office 3/26/2015. Favorable report out of Legislative Commissioner's Office 4/1/2015.

Outlook:

The measure has been reported out of the Legislative Commissioner's Office and now awaits further consideration on the House floor. The substitute text has now been made available.

The substitute removes tiling, coping, decking, and installation of equipment such as pumps, filters, and chemical feeders from the definition of "swimming pool builders." The substitute also changes the deadline from July 1, 2016 to April 1, 2016 in order for the Commissioner of Consumer Protection to adopt regulations. The substitute also changes the application deadline for examination from January 1, 2014 to January 1, 2017. Finally, the amendment changes the effective date from October 1 to upon passage.

The Joint Committee on Public Safety and Security voted 17-6 to report this measure as substituted.

During the March 12 hearing, the Connecticut Spa and Pool Association testified in opposition of the measure.

This measure is a raised bill formally introduced by the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Security. The Democratic Party controls the House, Senate and the Governor's Office