Committee on Children

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5683
Title: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DRY LAND WATER SAFETY INSTRUCTION PILOT PROGRAM.
Vote Date: 3/7/2019
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 2/14/2019

Disclaimer: The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.

SPONSORS OF BILL:
Committee on Children

REASONS FOR BILL:
To create a dry land water safety instruction pilot program for children in fifteen municipalities in Connecticut.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:
Sarah Eagan, State Child Advocate, Office of the Child Advocate:
The child advocate testified in favor of this bill. In the last Child Fatality report published the OCA shed light on the fact that drowning is the second leading accidental/unintentional causes of death in Connecticut. It is believed that learning to swim is the key preventative factor in reducing drowning deaths. Furthermore, the OCA recommends additional language to include appropriate water safety training for children with disabilities and to display this training publically.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:
Raymond J. Rescildo, Owner - Certified Pool & Spa LLC, Member - Commission on Women, Children, and Seniors’ Water Safety Task Force:
Testimony was submitted in support of this bill because this training will allow Connecticut families to keep their children safe while still enjoying swimming during the summer months.

Lynn Spaulding, Office Manager, Certified Pool Operator Instructor, Advanced Service Technician, Certified Pool Operator:
Testimony was submitted in favor of this bill. As a certified pool operator instructor, Ms. Spaulding expresses the importance of talking about water safety, making families aware of the associated hazards as well as how to reduce them, while teaching pool operators.

**Valerie Stolfi Collins, CRPA Executive Director:**
The Connecticut Recreation & Parks Association submitted testimony in support of this bill. The association ensures the safety of all public facilities, including pools, parks and other waterfronts. Park and rec departments provide training to their aquatic and camp personnel and the association believes it is incredibly important to train children in water safety as well.

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**
None submitted.

Reported by: Mikhela Hull                                      Date: 3/20/19