

Planning and Development Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5169
AN ACT CONCERNING THE REQUIREMENT TO INSTALL SWIMMING POOL
Title: BARRIERS.
Vote Date: 3/1/2024
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 2/21/2024
File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Planning and Development Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

To prohibit the issuance of a building permit for the construction or substantial alteration of a swimming pool unless certain barriers are included in the construction plan. Drowning is a leading cause of death at home for children ages 1-4. A requirement installing fences at pools would ensure an additional layer of protection for Connecticut children.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Executive Director, Injury Prevention Center at Connecticut Children's, Kevin Borrup](#) supports HB 5169 as one of the leading causes of death in the home if children between 1-4 years old is drowning. Most of these occur in swimming pools, by implementing a requirement of fencing around a pool would protect children when supervision is distracted.

[Advocacy Manager, CCM, Zachary McKeown](#) supports the child safety intent of the bill but wants to ensure, "that any language does not have the unintended consequences of changing the requirements for municipal splash pads and sprays parks. PA 16-75 was adopted specifically to prohibit regulations governing the safety of public pools from requiring fences around municipal splash pads or spray parks and asks the committee to continue this public policy."

[President/ GR Chair, CONSPA, Ray Rescildo](#) supports the legislation as it would protect children. However, Rescildo believes Line 7 -9 do not offer satisfactory protection, as these units are “prone to fail and gather enough standing water for a drowning.”

[The Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association, Inc](#) also supports the safety intent but want to ensure that splash pad and spray park exemptions are not removed from the CT General Statutes.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed.

Reported by: Mario Volpe

Date: 3/18/2024