

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## SENATOR CARLOS G. SMITH & REPRESENTATIVE JOHANNA LÓPEZ FILE BILLS TO PREVENT CHILD DROWNINGS

**Tallahassee, FL – 2/12/2025:** With Florida continuing to rank [number one in the nation](#) for childhood drowning, Senator Carlos Guillermo Smith and Representative Johanna López (**D-Orlando**) have filed [Senate Bill 604](#) and [House Bill 93](#) ensuring compliance with state swimming pool safety standards for the sale or transfer of all residential homes in Florida.

The identical bills require that all residential properties with swimming pools undergoing ownership transfer or sale must pass a final inspection to ensure they meet swimming pool safety measures already in place for new construction pools. Title companies, inspectors, and mortgage underwriters will be required to report any home that fails to meet safety and drowning prevention standards.

*“We must put an end to the epidemic of preventable child drownings that continue to happen in this state. Our proposed pool safety requirements are great tools for drowning prevention, and it is critical we ensure they apply to the sale and transfer of all residential homes, regardless of construction year,”* said Smith.

Current Florida law requires that residential swimming pools meet one of the [five standards to pass inspection](#). Such safety standards for a residential pool include:

- Be isolated from access to a home by an enclosure that meets all four of the [pool barrier requirements](#).
- Be equipped with an approved safety pool cover.
- All doors and windows providing direct access from the home to the pool must be equipped with an exit alarm.
- All doors providing access from the home to the pool must be equipped with a self-closing, self-latching device with a release mechanism placed no lower than 54 inches above the floor.
- A swimming pool alarm that, when placed in a pool, sounds an alarm upon detection of an accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water.

*“Too many families in Florida have suffered the unimaginable loss of a child due to accidental drowning—an entirely preventable tragedy. By refiling HB 93 alongside Senator Carlos Guillermo Smith, we are taking a critical step toward strengthening residential pool safety laws, ensuring that every pool has at least one life-saving safety feature. This legislation is about protecting our children and educating our communities. No family should have to endure such a heartbreaking loss when we have the means to prevent it. Together, we can make Florida safer for all,”* said López

Brent Moore, Executive Director of Children's Safety Village, offered the following statement of support:

*“With Florida again leading the nation in unintentional drowning of children under 18 we emphasize the need for heightened safety standards. We believe these updated standards reduce drownings, and all homes should have these protections.”*

Requiring the sale or transfer of all residential homes with swimming pools to comply with updated safety standards and enhanced accountability measures to strengthen the enforcement of drowning prevention standards will save the lives of children and other vulnerable populations.

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