

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 1319
SPONSOR(S): Goldstein
TIED BILLS:

Certification of Swimming Instructors
IDEN./SIM. BILLS: SB 2426

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) Health Care Regulation Committee		Halperin	Mitchell
2) Business Regulation Committee			
3) Health Care Appropriations Committee			
4) Health & Families Council			
5) _____			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

HB 1319 creates s. 514.072, F.S., to require additional certification of swimming instructors who teach people who have developmental disabilities. The bill provides the Department of Health with the authority to enforce compliance.

The bill allocates \$535,000 from General Revenue to the department for the purpose of implementing the act, to be distributed as follows:

- \$185,000 in recurring revenue to the Dan Marino Foundation, Inc., to implement and operate the certification program;
- \$150,000 in nonrecurring revenue to Broward County Parks and Recreation for SWIM Central to develop the curriculum for the Special Needs Certification; and
- \$200,000 in nonrecurring revenue to the Weston Family YMCA for pool modifications and enhancements for the developmentally disabled.

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2006.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

Provide limited government – The bill adds new certification requirements to the practice of swimming instruction in Florida.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

HB 1319 creates s. 514.072, F.S., to require additional certification of individuals who work at public swimming pools as swimming instructors for people who have developmental disabilities, as defined in s. 393.063(10), F.S. Currently, swimming instructors are certified under s. 514.071, F.S., which provides that any person working as a swimming instructor or lifeguard at a public swimming pool must be certified by the American Red Cross, the YMCA, or other nationally recognized aquatic training program.

The bill provides that the “special needs” swimming instructor certification requirements will be developed by the Dan Marino Foundation, Inc., and instructors must meet these additional certification requirements in order to teach individuals with developmental disabilities.

Swimming instructors certified under s. 514.071, F.S. before July 1, 2006, must meet the additional requirements by January 1, 2007. Individuals certified under s. 514.071, F.S. on or after July 1, 2006, must meet the additional requirements within 6 months after receiving the original certification.

In addition to other remedies available to the Department of Health, the bill provides the department the right to sue to prohibit or restrain by injunction the operation of any public swimming pool that uses any swimming instructor in violation of certification requirements.

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PRESENT SITUATION

Proponents of the bill claim that many developmentally disabled children are not being taught to swim properly because instructors lack expertise in training special needs students. While teachers in classrooms must receive additional certification to instruct special needs children, swimming instructors are not required to have additional training.

Florida Geography

Florida has 11,761 square miles covered by water, making it the third wettest state behind Alaska and Michigan.¹ Florida also has the second longest coastline of 1350 miles, and the second longest

¹ http://www.netstate.com/states/geography/fl_geography.htm.

shoreline of 8,426 miles.² Approximately 80 percent of residents live by the coast, and no resident is more than 75 miles from water.³

Drowning statistics

Drowning is the second leading cause of injury death of infants and children younger than 15 in the U.S. and children under the age of five have the highest drowning rates. For every child who drowns, four children are hospitalized for near-drowning. Of the estimated 5,000 children who are hospitalized annually for near-drowning, 15 percent die in the hospital and one third suffer significant neurological damage. In Florida, drowning is the leading cause of death to children age 14 and under⁴, and the state has the highest number of drowning accidents in the nation.⁵ Children under one year of age are most likely to drown in bathtubs and buckets, while children between the ages of 1 and 4 most frequently drown in residential swimming pools. Children usually enter pools through unprotected gates and are only out of eyesight for moments before immersing in the water. Children and adolescents between the ages of 5 and 19 most often drown in lakes, ponds, rivers and pools. The annual cost of care per year for an impaired survivor of a near-drowning is approximately \$100,000.⁶

Factors that increase the risk of drowning

Some underlying medical conditions are known to increase the risk of drowning. Persons with developmental disabilities are at higher risk of pedestrian accidents in general, including falls, fires, and drowning.⁷ Children with epilepsy are estimated to be 4 to 14 times more at risk of submersion⁸; and two recent studies suggest that children with autism may also be at increased risk.⁹ However, both studies are based on a small number of drowning deaths and more research is necessary to evaluate the relation between autism and drowning. For some parents of children with autism, fears about the child's wellbeing sometimes lead them to avoid swimming lessons all together.¹⁰ Minority and underprivileged children are also at increased risk of drowning. According to 2002 statistics, 40 percent of children who die from drowning are minority children. This is due to factors of race, class, privilege and poverty that limit a child's access to aquatic facilities and swimming lessons.¹¹

Developmental Disabilities in Florida

Section 393.063(10), F.S defines a developmental disability as a disorder or syndrome that is attributable to retardation, cerebral palsy, autism, spina bifida, or Prader-Willi syndrome and that constitutes a substantial handicap that can reasonably be expected to continue indefinitely. Developmental disabilities begin anytime during development up to 22 years of age and usually last

² <http://www.50states.com/florida.htm>.

³ Florida Department of Environmental Protection. <http://www.floridadep.org/law/grants/cmp/>.

⁴ Orange County, CA, Fire Authority. http://www.poolalarms.com/pool_drowning_statistics.htm.

⁵ http://www.poolalarms.com/statistics_florida_swimming_pool_accidents.htm.

⁶ Statistics on Drowning. <http://hsc.usf.edu/CLASS/JulieJ/Statistics.htm>.

⁷ Strauss, D., Shavelle, R., Anderson, T. and Baumeister, A. "External Causes of Death among Persons with Developmental Disability." *American Journal of Epidemiology*. 1998, Vol. 147, No. 9: 855-862.

<http://aje.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/147/9/855>

⁸ Smith GS, Brenner RA. The changing risks of drowning for adolescents in the US and effective control strategies. *Adolescent Medicine*. 1995; 6 :153 –170. See also footnotes 39-41 in Brenner, R.A. "Prevention of Drowning in Infants, Children, and Adolescents. *Pediatrics*. Vol. 112 No. 2 August 2003, pp. 440-445. Available at <http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;112/2/440>.

⁹ Sibert JR, Lyons RA, Smith BA, et al. Preventing deaths by drowning in children in the United Kingdom: have we made progress in 10 years? Population based incidence study. *British Journal of Medicine* .2002; 324 :1070–1071; and Shavelle RM, Strauss DJ, Pickett J. Causes of death in autism. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*. 2001; 31 :569 –576.

¹⁰ Life Science Services Contract with NASA. <http://fitness.ksc.nasa.gov/articles/autism.php>.

¹¹ Anderson, Kelli. "Just Add Water: A Complete Guide to Aquatic Centers." *Recreation Management*.

http://www.recmanagement.com/feature_print.php?fid=200602fe01.

throughout a person's lifetime.¹² As of 2003 there were 7,151 children with autism in Florida. This represents a 690 percent cumulative growth rate of autism from 1992 to 2003, or an average annual growth rate of 19 percent. The increase in autism prevalence is systemic across the U.S., with rates having grown from 1 in 10,000 births in the 1980s to 1 in 166 births today.¹³

Current Regulations of Swimming Instructors

Section 514.071, F.S. requires that any person working as a swimming instructor or lifeguard at a public swimming pool must be certified by the American Red Cross, the Y.M.C.A., or another nationally recognized aquatic training program.¹⁴ Swimming instructors are to be certified in swimming instruction, first aid, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Rule 64E-9.008, F.A.C., further requires that swimming instructors be certified in child and infant cardiopulmonary resuscitation through the American Red Cross, or the American Heart Association or the National Safety Council. In terms of enforcement, the Department of Health may currently sue to enjoin the operation of any public swimming pool that uses any swimming instructor or lifeguard in violation of this section, in addition to any other remedies available to the department.

Current Swimming Instruction Provided to Developmentally Disabled Children

Broward County has a unique program for serving developmentally disabled individuals, and currently provides instruction to between 4,000 and 5,000 special needs children each year in their regular swim instruction program.

New Certification Requirements

The certification program required in the bill is being drafted by a workgroup organized by the Broward County Swim Central in conjunction with the Dan Marino Foundation. The new proposed certification requirements are not currently available for review. According to the Department of Health analysis on this bill, there are currently nationally recognized courses that are required for swimming instructors and lifeguards. It is not known how the certification requirements in the bill will integrate with the national requirements for certification. The department suggests that an alternative way of designing additional certification requirements is to submit the idea to the Red Cross, YMCA or other national swimming instruction program for incorporation into existing swimming courses for certification.

About the Dan Marino Foundation

The Dan Marino Foundation, Inc. is based in Weston, Florida, and was founded in 1992 as a non-profit organization supporting medical, emotional or behavioral programs that provide integrated intervention services for children with special needs. The foundation has distributed and pledged over \$7 million dollars to provide research, programs, and services that have benefited more than one hundred thousand children.¹⁵

¹² U.S. Centers for Disease Control. <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/dd/default.htm>.

¹³ Public Schools Autism Prevalence Report Series, 1992-2003, www.fightingautism.org. Data Note: The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires each state's Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Education to record specific childhood disabilities, including autism, for each school year. This means that in order for a child to be recorded in the autism disability category the student must require special academic support for the disability; and means that some children with autism who attend private school or other facilities are not included in these counts. Data sources include www.ideadata.org and www.cdc.gov.nchs/.

¹⁴ Pursuant to Rule 64E-9.008, "nationally recognized aquatic training programs" adopt as reference the standards found in the 2000 edition of the American Red Cross Lifeguarding Instructors Manual, the 1995 edition of the American Red Cross Water Safety Guide for Training Instructors, the On the Guard II, The YMCA Lifeguard Manual, Fourth Edition, (YMCA) The Youth and Adult Aquatic Program Manual (1999), and (YMCA) The Parent/Child and Preschool Aquatic Program Manual (1999).

¹⁵ Dan Marino Foundation, Inc. www.danmarinofoundation.org.

About the Broward County Parks and Recreation SWIM Central Program

SWIM Central is housed at Broward County Parks and Recreation and is the county's chief coordinating agency for water safety instruction and awareness. SWIM Central was formally established in 1999 with funding from the Broward County Commission, and then formed a collaborative partnership with the Broward County School Board. The Florida Legislature provided a special appropriation of \$200,000. In 2005 additional funding came from the Children's Service Council of Broward County, with moneys allocated for recruitment, training, and certification of swimming instructors, and basic First Aid and CPR instruction for parents and guardians. Under the auspices of the Broward County Commission's 2000 Safe Parks and Land Preservation Bond Program, nearly \$20 million has been allocated for SWIM Central Capital Bond Grants to construct new aquatic facilities in many of Broward's municipalities and at several facilities of eligible nonprofit organizations, such as area Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCAs, and JCCs. SWIM Central provides ten 30-minute classes over a two-week period for children to learn basic and valuable water safety and swimming skills, at no cost to the parent. The success of SWIM Central has gained attention nationwide and is the only program of its type in the country.¹⁶

About the Weston Family YMCA

The Weston Family YMCA is a 65,000-square-foot facility located at the Weston Regional Park, and includes an Olympic-size outdoor swimming pool. The center serves youth and families throughout West Broward County, including the cities of Cooper City, Davie, Miramar, Pembroke Pines, Plantation, Southwest Ranches, Sunrise and Weston.¹⁷

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Creates s. 514.072, F.S., to require additional certification for swimming instructors who teach people who have developmental disabilities.

Section 2. Allocates \$535,000 from General Revenue for the purpose of implementing the act.

Section 3. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2006.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

The bill allocates \$535,000 from General Revenue to the department for the purpose of implementing the act, to be distributed as follows:

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¹⁶ Broward County SWIM Central. <http://www.broward.org/parks/swimcentral.htm>.

¹⁷ Weston Community Guide. <http://www.communitylink.com/us/fl/weston/profile/leisure.htm>.

According to Department of Health (DOH) analysis, staff time spent at public pools will be increased during the routine inspections, which will result in additional costs. Increased violations could also result in a significant increase in the workload of DOH legal staff. The amount of these costs are both undeterminable at this time.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

2. Revenues:

None.

3. Expenditures:

See Fiscal Comments.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

See Fiscal Comments.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

According to Department of Health (DOH) analysis, each city or county that operates a public pool and offers swimming instruction to developmentally disabled persons will incur a cost for each staff member certified under the requirements of bill. Travel costs may be also be incurred for instructors to go to Broward County in order to receive training and certification.¹⁸

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or taken an action requiring the expenditure of funds. This bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities. This bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities have to raise revenue.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None required.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

The department suggests that the certification proposed in the bill be done initially in Broward County only to ensure its effectiveness prior to implementation statewide. If not, DOH would prefer an effective date of January 1, 2007, as the department would have to train inspectors and develop processes and procedures for incorporating the certification requirement into public pool inspections. The department is responsible for 34,000 public pools statewide.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES

¹⁸ Berrios, J. "Swimming teachers could get extra duties." *Miami Herald*. March 20, 2006.
http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/local/states/florida/counties/broward_county/13994776.htm.