

By Senator Osgood

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Swimming Lesson Voucher
3 Program; amending s. 514.073, F.S.; revising the
4 purpose of the program; revising the contract
5 requirements for establishing a network of swimming
6 lesson vendors; revising eligibility criteria to
7 participate in the program; providing an effective
8 date.

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10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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12 Section 1. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 514.073,
13 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

14 514.073 Swimming Lesson Voucher Program.—

15 (1) There is created within the department the Swimming
16 Lesson Voucher Program. The purpose of the program is to
17 increase water safety in this state by offering vouchers for
18 swimming lessons at no cost to families ~~with an income of no~~
19 ~~more than 200 percent of the federal poverty level~~ who have one
20 or more children 4 years of age or younger.

21 (2) The department shall do all of the following to
22 implement the program:

23 (a) Contract with and establish a network of swimming
24 lesson vendors that will accept the vouchers offered by the
25 program in exchange for providing swimming lessons. ~~To establish~~
26 ~~the network, the department may contract directly with swimming~~
27 ~~lesson vendors or contract with one or more nonprofit~~
28 ~~organizations that promote swimming safety to subcontract with~~
29 ~~and manage swimming lesson vendors in one or more counties, or~~

32-01253-25

2025692__

30 ~~both.~~ To ensure that swimming lessons are available throughout
31 this state, the department, ~~either directly or through a~~
32 ~~contracted nonprofit organization,~~ must attempt to secure at
33 least one such vendor in each county. Any swimming lesson vendor
34 that offers swimming lessons at a public pool that is owned or
35 maintained by a county or municipality must, if requested by the
36 department ~~or by a nonprofit organization contracted by the~~
37 ~~department,~~ participate in the program.

38 (b) Establish a method for members of the public to apply
39 for swimming lesson vouchers and for determining an applicant's
40 eligibility. The department shall establish eligibility criteria
41 necessary for a family to receive one or more vouchers from the
42 program, including, but not limited to, the following:

43 1. The age of each child for whom a voucher is being
44 sought, who may be no more than 4 years of age.

45 2. ~~The family income level, which may be up to 200 percent~~
46 ~~of the federal poverty level.~~

47 ~~3.~~ The family's address of residency in this state.

48 (c) Subject to specific appropriation, issue vouchers to
49 eligible applicants.

50 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.