



February 1, 2022

The Honorable Wendell S. Walker
House Health, Welfare, and Institutions Subcommittee
Pocahontas Building, Room E310
900 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

The Honorable Christopher T. Head
House Health, Welfare, and Institutions Subcommittee
Pocahontas Building, Room E210
900 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Re: Consideration of House Bill 669 – Public Swimming Pools; Regulations.

Dear Chairman Walker and Vice-Chair Head:

This bill, directing the Virginia Department of Health to promulgate regulations governing swimming pools and spas for public use and convene a stakeholder work group provide recommendations related to regulations required to be adopted is supported by the Pool & Hot Tub Alliance (PHTA).

Currently, the Virginia Department of Health only has authority to govern and promulgate regulations for pools and spas at campgrounds, summer camps, and hotels. Additionally, only 20 local jurisdictions in Virginia have a code that regulates the operations, maintenance, and safety of public pools. HB 669 will drastically increase the safety and welfare of public pools in Virginia and further protect Virginia residents.

HB 669 will not take away a local jurisdiction's authority to enforce or adopt its own operations, maintenance, and safety code for pools and spas or limit its ability to be more stringent than regulations promulgated by the Virginia Department of Health. The proposed legislation will provide a baseline of standards for local jurisdictions to follow in the absence of an established operations, maintenance, and safety code.

The bill establishes a workgroup of industry leaders to assist the Virginia Department of Health and provide recommendations related to regulations required to be adopted. Additionally, the establishment of the workgroup creates an environment for industry leaders and the Virginia Department of Health to discuss current and best practices and opportunity for future collaboration.



2111 Eisenhower Ave., Ste 500
Alexandria, VA 22314

On behalf of the many Virginia pool and spa professionals represented by PHTA, as well as those in neighboring states that do business in Virginia, we respectfully request that you consider moving this important legislation out of your committee.

Sincerely,



Jason Davidson

PHTA, Director of Government Relations

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About Us

The Pool & Hot Tub Alliance was formed in 2019, combining the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) and the National Swimming Pool Foundation (NSPF). With the mission to “Celebrate the Water,” PHTA facilitates the expansion of swimming, water safety and related research and outreach activities aimed at introducing more people to swimming, making swimming environments safer and keeping pools open to serve communities.

APSP, now the PHTA, is the world’s oldest and largest association representing swimming pool, hot tub, and spa manufacturers, distributors, manufacturers’ agents, designers, builders, installers, suppliers, retailers, and service professionals. Dedicated to the growth and development of its members’ businesses and to promoting the enjoyment and safety of pools and spas, PHTA offers a range of services, from professional development to advancing key legislation and regulation at the federal and local levels, to consumer outreach and public safety. PHTA is the only industry organization recognized by the American National Standards Institute to develop and promote national standards for pools, hot tubs, and spas. For more information, visit PHTA.org.



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