



**POOL &
HOT TUB**
ALLIANCE

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House Health and Human Services
Sub-Committee on Health
General Assembly Building
201 North 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Re: HB 354 Public pools; Board of Health to adopt regulations

Dear Chair Hope and Health Sub-Committee members,

I write to you today in support of House Bill 354. This bill directs the Board of Health to adopt regulations governing swimming pools and other water recreational facilities operated for public use, including swimming pools and other water recreational facilities operated in conjunction with a tourist facility or health spa.

The changes in this legislation are necessary as the Virginia Department of Health currently only has authority to govern and promulgate regulations for pools and spas at campgrounds, summer camps, and hotels. Additionally, only 19 local jurisdictions in Virginia have a code that regulates the operations, maintenance, and safety of public pools. This bill will begin the process to drastically increase the safety and welfare of public pools in Virginia and further protect Virginia residents.

PHTA, its Virginia members, and other industry stakeholders have a tremendous relationship with the Virginia Department of Health and provide recommendations related to regulations required to be adopted. Additionally, this relationship has created an environment for industry leaders and the Virginia Department of Health to discuss current and best practices and provide opportunities for future collaboration.

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 favorably report this important legislation for the full committee's consideration.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Warm regards,

Tyler D. Jones
Director of Government Relations
Pool and Hot Tub Alliance

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About Us

The Pool & Hot Tub Alliance, an Alexandria, Virginia-based organization, 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.