



January 26, 2023

The Honorable Wendell S. Walker
900 East Main Street, E304
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Re: Consideration of House Bill 1917 – Public Pools; Board of Health to Adopt Regulations.

Dear Chairman Walker:

This bill, directing the Virginia Department of Health to promulgate regulations governing swimming pools and spas for public use is supported by the Pool & Hot Tub Alliance (PHTA). PHTA's headquarters are established in Virginia and many of its employees are Virginians.

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 1917 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 opportunity 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 consider moving this important legislation out of your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JD", is written over the printed name "Jason Davidson".

Jason Davidson

PHTA, Director of Government Relations

jdavidson@phta.org



2111 Eisenhower Ave., Ste 500
Alexandria, VA 22314

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.



2111 Eisenhower Ave., Ste 500
Alexandria, VA 22314