

SENATE, No. 1249

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 3, 1996

By Senators SINGER, PALAIA and Connors

1 AN ACT concerning the adoption of amendments to the electrical
2 subcode and supplementing P.L.1975, c.217 (C.52:27D-119 et
3 seq.).

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

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8 1. The Commissioner of Community Affairs, in consultation with
9 the code advisory board, shall adopt a rule or regulation that requires
10 the owner or operator of any commercial spa, hot tub, whirlpool bath
11 or similar unit to provide, in close proximity to the unit, a cutoff
12 switch that will immediately disconnect power from the unit's motor
13 for the purpose of deactivating its recirculation system. The rule or
14 regulation shall also require the posting of a sign on the unit indicating
15 the location of the cutoff switch. These requirements shall apply to
16 units installed before, on and after the effective date of this act.

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18 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fifth month after
19 enactment, except that upon enactment the commissioner may take
20 such anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be necessary
21 for the implementation of this act.

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24 STATEMENT

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26 This bill is a response to the tragic accident on May 25, 1996, in
27 which a New Jersey high school student, Tanya Nickens, was
28 accidentally drowned at the bottom of a commercial hot tub during a
29 post-prom party, as a result of having been pinned by pressure to a
30 water intake duct with a broken covering. It was reported that the
31 emergency cutoff switch for the hot tub's motor, which created the
32 pressure on the grate, was in the basement of the facility and may not
33 have been easily located.

34 This bill would direct the Commissioner of Community Affairs to
35 adopt a rule or regulation as an amendment to the electrical subcode
36 that would require all existing and future hot tubs and similar units to
37 provide for a readily accessible disconnect switch that would enable

1 rescuers to immediately turn off the unit's recirculation system in the
2 event of a recurrence of such an accident. Also, a sign on the tub
3 would direct rescuers to the site of the cutoff switch.

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8 Directs Commissioner of Community Affairs to require readily
9 accessible safety cutoff switches on commercial hot tubs, spas and
10 similar units.