

SENATE, No. 4177

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 22, 2021

Sponsored by:
Senator VIN GOPAL
District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Requires municipalities that have public swimming pools to provide information regarding “dry drowning.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning public swimming pools, and amending and
2 supplementing P.L.1957, c.166.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. (New section) On or before the first day of the fourth
8 month next following enactment of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
9 before the Legislature as this bill), the Commissioner of
10 Community Affairs, in consultation with the Commissioner of
11 Health shall design, produce, and distribute to each municipality in
12 which a public pool is located, a poster warning of the dangers of
13 dry drowning and listing all of the symptoms of dry drowning, and
14 a one-page information pamphlet that provides the same
15 information.

16
17 2. Section 1 of P.L.1957, c.166 (C.40:61-22.21) is amended to
18 read as follows:

19 1. The governing body of any municipality may acquire,
20 establish, construct, own or lease, control, equip, improve,
21 maintain, operate and regulate one or more public swimming pools
22 and such other recreational, playground, or public entertainment
23 activities as it may determine to provide in connection therewith,
24 and for any such purpose or purposes may construct, reconstruct,
25 alter, provide, renew and maintain such buildings or other structures
26 and equipment as it may determine, and provide for the care,
27 custody and control thereof.

28 The governing body shall post in a prominent area at every
29 public swimming pool the poster produced and distributed by the
30 Department of Community Affairs pursuant to section 1 of
31 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)
32 warning of the dangers of dry drowning and listing all of the
33 symptoms of dry drowning. The governing body shall also require
34 that a copy of the one-page information sheet produced by the
35 Department of Community Affairs pursuant to section 1 of
36 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)
37 shall be provided to municipal residents annually, either at the time
38 they register as members of the municipal pool, or at the public
39 swimming pool during the first two weeks that the pool is open.

40 (cf: P.L.1971, c.334, s.2)

41
42 3. This act shall take effect immediately, but the posting and
43 distribution requirements in section 2 shall remain inoperative until
44 the first day of the fourth month next following enactment.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 STATEMENT

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3 This bill would require the Commissioner of Community Affairs,
4 in consultation with the Commissioner of Health to design, produce,
5 and distribute to each municipality in which a public pool is
6 located, a poster warning of the dangers of dry drowning and listing
7 all of the symptoms of dry drowning, and a one-page information
8 pamphlet providing that information. The bill would also require
9 the governing body of every municipality that operates a public
10 swimming pool to post that poster in a prominent area at the pool,
11 and to also require that a copy of the one-page information sheet be
12 provided to municipal residents annually, either at the time they
13 register as members of the municipal pool, or at the public
14 swimming pool during the first two weeks that the pool is open.

15 “Dry drowning” occurs when a person inhales water into the
16 person’s lungs but isn't affected until after the person has left the
17 water. It is also referred to as secondary drowning. Patients can
18 then have breathing difficulties due to airway muscle spasms. The
19 laryngospasm reflex essentially causes asphyxiation and neurogenic
20 pulmonary edema.