

Department of Fiscal Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 389 (Delegate Love, *et al.*)
Environmental Matters

Public Swimming Pools and Spas - Safety

This bill requires the owner or operator of a public pool or public spa to provide a shutoff switch that disconnects the pool's or spa's water pumps. A sign must be posted near the pool or spa indicating the location of the shutoff switch. The bill requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to adopt safety standard regulations for public swimming pools and public spas which must include specified requirements and seek to minimize the economic impact on owners and operators of existing facilities.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill's requirements could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: Local expenditures could increase by a moderate amount, as discussed below. Revenues would not be affected. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: Potential meaningful effect on small businesses as discussed below.

Fiscal Analysis

Local Effect: Local expenditures could increase by an estimated \$1,200 to \$2,000 for each swimming pool or spa owned or operated by a local jurisdiction, if the pool or spa does not currently have a shutoff switch in close proximity. Local health departments are already required by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to inspect public pools

and spas on an annual basis. The bill's safety standard enforcement requirements could be incorporated into the existing inspections at no additional cost.

Small Business Effect: Small business owners or operators of public swimming pools or spas could be adversely affected, depending on whether the pools or spas already have the proposed safety equipment. The definition of “public pool or spa” includes pools owned by local governments; non-profit organizations; and townhouse, condominium, or apartment developments. Most public pools and spas do not currently have a shutoff switch in close proximity to the pool or spa. The cost of providing such a switch could range from \$1,200 to \$2,000. In addition, small businesses that install and repair swimming pools or spas could benefit from increased demand for their products and services.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Community and Public Health Administration), Anne Arundel County, Garrett County, Prince George’s County, Dorchester County, Department of Fiscal Services, American Pool Management, Inc.

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 27, 1997

brd

Analysis by: Sue Friedlander

Reviewed by: John Rixey

Direct Inquiries to:

John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst

(410) 841-3710

(301) 858-3710