



MARYLAND
Chamber of Commerce

LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

Favorable

Senate Bill 319

Public Safety – Maryland Swimming Pool and Spa Standards - Adoption

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Thursday, February 10, 2022

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 5,500 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

According to a 2015 report by the Maryland Department of Health, drowning was the 2nd leading cause of death for children aged 5-14 in the state. Unlike statewide building codes, requirements for residential pools and spas are vastly different in each jurisdiction, which creates a patchwork of regulations that industry members must comply with. In addition, most of these regulations are severely outdated with some being over 20 years old.

SB 319 seeks to bring conformity to Maryland swimming pool and spa standards by adopting the most recent edition of the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC). This code is based on scientifically proven practices for drowning prevention and energy efficiency and will follow the same process that Maryland employs for the adoption of the International Building Code, International Residential, and International Energy Conservation Code.

SB 319 provides numerous benefits to citizens and business owners in the State. Most importantly, the ISPSC enhances residential pool barrier requirements which dramatically reduce the risk of drowning. SB 319 also provides access to Consumer Product Safety Commission training grants, Statewide training on code compliance, and requires that provisions of this code be easily accessible and free for public viewing. SB 319 is a great example of government support for the modernization of regulations that impact Maryland citizens every day.

With these comments in mind, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a **favorable report** on **SB 319**.

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