



February 10, 2022

The Honorable William C. Smith
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB 319 – Support

Dear Chairman Smith:

This letter is in regard to the state of Maryland’s consideration of the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC).

While most Jurisdictions in Maryland have some form of existing pool and spa regulations, most lack a comprehensive code or laws that address design, construction, and safety of pools and spas leaving a patchwork of regulations across Maryland. SB 319 will remedy this by adopting the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC) which is the only code that is coordinated and correlated with the other building codes adopted in Maryland. The ISPSC is the first national code for swimming pools and spas ever created and the only code to address all aspects of public and residential pool and spa design and construction addressing quality, safety, and energy and conservation. **This bill will help to provide consistency to builders, operators, and even manufacturers’ representatives who deal with pools and spas across Maryland, DC, and Virginia.**

The ISPSC will establish minimum regulations for public and residential pools, spas, and hot tubs using prescriptive and performance-related provisions. Additional benefits of the ISPSC include:

- Seamless integration with the most widely used model codes in North America, the International Building Code® (IBC®) and International Residential Code® (IRC®).

- Meets or exceeds the requirements of the federal Virginia Graeme Baker Act for suction entrapment avoidance.

- Covers fencing, decks, lighting, heaters, circulation systems, pumps, accessibility, diving, sanitizing equipment, filters, and suction fittings.

- Includes provisions for pools and facilities geared specifically for water parks, along with provisions based on the latest research for diving, barriers, general design, and water quality safety.

- All necessary provisions in one book. The ISPSC combines the provisions of the relevant sections of the IRC, IBC, IPC®, and IMC®, and the APSP standards, serving as a fully-integrated document for pool and spa safety.

Our members in the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of PHTA reach from Maryland, through DC, and into Northern Virginia. The ISPSC is already the requirement for two of the three branches of our chapter. We believe, that by adopting the ISPSC in Maryland, the state will come in line with what most of our membership already considers to be the law of the land. It will only help to streamline the processes for all parties involved, especially contractors working throughout each of our member states.

We strongly urge the committee to pass SB 319 in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Brian St. Clair

President, PHTA Mid-Atlantic Chapter

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