
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1005
Author: Davies (R), et al.
Amended: 8/29/25 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 7/9/25

AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Laird

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE: 10-0, 7/16/25

AYES: Menjivar, Valladares, Durazo, Gonzalez, Limón, Padilla, Richardson,
Rubio, Weber Pierson, Wiener

NO VOTE RECORDED: Grove

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/29/25

AYES: Caballero, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 6/3/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Drowning prevention: public schools: informational materials

SOURCE: California Coalition for Children's Safety and Health

DIGEST: This bill makes several changes to the authorizations and requirements of drowning or injury prevention organizations that provide informational materials to local educational agencies. This bill also requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to compile and make available on its website, school-based water safety and drowning prevention educational resources for public use.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Authorizes a local, state, or national drowning or injury prevention organization affiliated with one or more drowning prevention organizations to provide

informational materials, in electronic or hardcopy form, to a public school regarding the following topics:

- a) The role that water safety education courses and swimming lessons play in drowning prevention and saving lives;
 - b) Local water safety and swimming skills programs in the county and communities served by the school, including free or reduced-price programs, and how to access information about age-appropriate public or private water safety courses and swimming skills programs that result in a certificate indicating successful completion; and
 - c) Contact information of the organization to receive further water safety education information. (Education Code (EC) § 51140)
- 2) Prohibits the informational materials from being used to solicit funding or donations for the organization. (EC § 51140)
 - 3) Authorizes, beginning with the 2024–25 school year, upon receipt of the informational materials, a public school to provide the informational materials to parents, legal guardians, or caregivers of pupils at the time the pupil enrolls at the school and at the beginning of each school year. (EC § 51140)
 - 4) Requires, upon request by a public school, a drowning or injury prevention organization to provide the informational materials in the three most commonly spoken languages associated with the population attending the school. (EC § 51140)
 - 5) Defines the following terms:
 - a) “Public school” to mean a school operated by a school district, county office of education, or a charter school; and
 - b) “Water safety” to mean age-appropriate education intended to promote safety in, on, and around bodies of water, including residential and public pools and spas, home water sources such as bathtubs, and open bodies of water such as lakes, rivers, canals, and the ocean, and to reduce the risk of injury or drowning.
 - 6) Requires persons providing aquatic instruction, including, but not limited to, swimming instruction, water safety instruction, water contact activities, and competitive aquatic sports, at a public swimming pool to possess current certificates from an American Red Cross or YMCA of the U.S.A. lifeguard

training program, or have equivalent qualifications as determined by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Additionally, it requires these persons to be certified in standard first aid and CPR. (Health and Safety Code § 116033)

This bill:

- 1) Authorizes public schools, upon receipt of drowning prevention informational materials, to provide said materials to parents, legal guardians, or caregivers of students at the time the student enrolls in said public school and at the beginning of each school year.
 - a) Encourages public schools to also provide the above informational materials to parents, legal guardians, or caregivers of students during the first week of May in the year the informational materials were provided.
- 2) Encourages public schools to provide students with water safety informational materials through multiple means, including but not limited to school assemblies, class room instruction, or library programs. Requires informational materials to meet the following criteria:
 - a) Be age- and grade- appropriate;
 - b) Be aligned with the information from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, pursuant to #3 below, as well as the information identified by the CDE, pursuant to #5 below; and
 - c) Be provided for free by drowning prevention or children safety organizations.
- 3) Requires drowning or injury prevention organization that provides information to a public school do the following:
 - a) Provide written evidence, in the form of a letter or document no longer than one page, to a school administrator, demonstrating that the informational materials provided by the drowning or injury prevention organization aligns with the drowning, drowning prevention, water safety, rescue, and swim skill lesson information found on the drowning prevention web page of the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

- b) Provide informational materials at no cost to the public school and allow the school to offer copies of the materials to pupils and parents, and determine how said materials are made available.
- 4) Specifies that a school administrator or school entity authorized by the school district that engages with a drowning or injury prevention organization shall not be responsible for confirming the drowning or injury prevention organization's compliance with the requirements listed in #3 above.
- 5) Requires the CDE, in consultation with the CDPH and the California Department of Developmental Services to gather and make available on its website, school-based water safety and drowning prevention educational resources and curriculum that are age appropriate to students of different grade levels and adaptable for public school use.
 - a) Encourages CDE to refer to the existing, freely accessible, age- and grade-appropriate curriculum that has been identified by relevant water safety and drowning prevention stakeholder organizations and that can be used in school settings.
- 6) Makes several findings and declarations related to drowning prevention in the Education Code.
- 7) Authorizes the CDPH to review and evaluate existing statutes and regulations under its jurisdiction recommended by the California Unintentional Injury Prevention Strategic Plan Project to ensure clarity, consistency, and alignment with current public health practices.
- 8) Authorizes the CDPH to recommend to the Legislature updates or nonsubstantive technical corrections to the California Unintentional Injury Prevention Strategic Plan Project to support effective implementation and regulatory compliance.

Comments

- 1) *Need for this bill.* According to the author, "Drowning is completely preventable, but every year we have families across our State losing loved ones to unintentional drowning. With so many barriers to entry in swimming, it's hard for families to get the resources they need. By providing drowning prevention education in schools we can ensure that students and their families are receiving information from professionals on best practices. Also by developing a swim lesson voucher program we will eventually be able to ensure

than any kid who wants to swim will be able to learn, and we can finally end drowning in California.”

- 2) *Drowning Among Adolescence.* According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, drowning is the leading cause of injury death in US children 1 to 4 years of age and the third leading cause of unintentional injury death among US children and adolescents 5 to 19 years of age. In 2018, almost 900 US children and youth under 20 years died of drowning, and more than 7,200 were seen at a hospital emergency department for a drowning event, with 35% of those children either hospitalized or transferred for further care. The rate of drowning death varies with age, sex, and race; those at the most significant risk are toddlers and male adolescents.
- 3) *California Department of Developmental Services (DDS): Pool Safety.* According to the DSS, drowning is a leading cause of injury-related deaths among children under 5 in California. Drowning takes the lives of more California toddlers than any other kind of accident. Children who survive a “near drowning” often suffer permanent or long-term consequences such as brain damage and motor and cognitive disorders due to a lack of oxygen. Children 1 to 4 years old are at most significant risk. According to the Client Development and Evaluation Report (CDER) at the DDS, 691 children under the age of 10 in the home of a parent or guardian nearly drowned in December 2024 alone. DSS provides a safety guide for home swimming pools and spas to ensure child safety and gives tips on providing adult supervision and safety barriers. Posters can be found on their [website](#) in multiple languages, including drowning prevention videos and public service announcements.

In 2006, California passed the Swimming Pool and Spa Safety Act, which requires new and remodeled pools and spas to provide at least one safety feature from a list of eligible features, adds mesh fences and swimming pool alarms to the list of enumerated drowning prevention safety features, and requires remodeled pools and spas to cover drains with an anti-entrapment grate. California has continued to build on pool safety standards through legislation such as SB 442 (Newman, Chapter 670, Statutes of 2017), which requires two of seven safety barriers to keep children from accessing pools, and AB 1020 (Emmerson, Chapter 267, Statutes of 2009), which established the United States Consumer Product Safety Act that improved pool safety equipment.

- 4) *California Department of Public Health : Childhood Drowning Data Collection Pilot Program and the California Water Safety Action Plan for Children.* In 2022, California passed SB 855 (Newman, Chapter 817, Statutes of 2022),

which tasked the CDPH with administering the Childhood Drowning Data Collection Pilot Program to track and collect data on fatal and nonfatal childhood drownings, by January 1, 2024. The bill also requires CDPH to submit a report to the Legislature that includes recommendations related to improving pool safety on a state and local level, by January 1, 2026. Finally, the bill requires CDPH to develop a California Water Safety Action Plan for Children, as well as a standardized form for counties to use in reporting drowning statistics by January 1, 2027.

According to the California Water Safety Coalition's website, CDPH recently concluded their public comment period for the draft interim legislative report on progress and findings of the data collection program as well as a review of pool safety guidelines.

Currently, CDPH also hosts a dedicated page on toddler pool and spa safety, providing tips for improving adult supervision and the use of safety barriers, as well as a communication resources page to assist local health jurisdictions and community-based organizations in drowning prevention and water safety messaging.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- The CDE estimates one-time General Fund costs of \$300,000 over a three-year period to develop school-based water safety and drowning prevention education curriculum and resources and make them available on its website.
- The CDPH may incur additional, unknown General Fund costs to review and evaluate existing statutes and regulations regarding drowning prevention.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/29/25)

California Coalition for Children's Safety and Health (source)
Arcadia Police Officers' Association
Brea Police Association
Burbank Police Officers' Association
California Association of School Police Chiefs
California Coalition of School Safety Professionals
California Narcotic Officers' Association
California Pool & Spa Association

California Reserve Peace Officers Association
California Special Districts Association
California State PTA
Claremont Police Officers Association
Corona Police Officers Association
Culver City Police Officers' Association
Emergency Medical Services Administrators' Association of California
Fullerton Police Officers' Association
Los Angeles School Police Management Association
Los Angeles School Police Officers Association
Murrieta Police Officers' Association
National Marine Manufacturers Association
Newport Beach Police Association
Palos Verdes Police Officers Association
Placer County Deputy Sheriffs' Association
Pomona Police Officers' Association
Riverside Police Officers Association
Riverside Sheriffs' Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/29/25)

None received

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 6/3/25

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Lee, McKinnor

Prepared by: Therresa Austin / ED. / (916) 651-4105
9/2/25 18:13:14

**** **END** ****