

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

CSA1 Bill Id:AB 1005 Author:(Davies)

As Amended Ver:August 29, 2025

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Makes several changes to the authorizations and requirements of drowning or injury prevention organizations that provide informational materials to local educational agencies. 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.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Remove a requirement to establish the Swim Lesson Voucher and Swim Lesson Directory Development Plan Partnership, a stakeholder advisory group, within the Injury and Violence Prevention Branch of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).
- 2) Authorize, in order to further drowning prevention and as a component of California's drowning prevention strategic plans, the CDPH to review and evaluate existing statutes and regulations under its jurisdiction as recommended by the California Unintentional Injury Prevention Strategic Plan Project to ensure clarity, consistency, and alignment with current public health practices.
- 3) Require the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and CDPH to consult with the CDE to gather and make available on its website school-based water safety and drowning prevention education resources and curriculum that are age appropriate to pupils of different grade levels and adaptable for public school use.

COMMENTS

Child and adolescent drowning. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, drowning is the leading cause of injury death in US children one to four years of age and the third leading cause of unintentional injury death among US children and adolescents five 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.

DDS Pool Safety. According to the DSS, drowning is a leading cause of injury-related deaths among children under five 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 one to four 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, requires two of seven safety barriers to keep children from accessing pools, and AB 1020 (Emmerson) Chapter 267, Statutes of 2009, establishes the United States Consumer Product Safety Act, increasing requirements and standards for pool safety equipment.

CDPH 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) requires the CDPH to administer the Childhood Drowning Data Collection Pilot Program to track and collect data on fatal and nonfatal childhood drownings by January 1, 2024. The CDPH is also required 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, and 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. The 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, the 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.

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

Arguments in Support

The Drowning Prevention Foundation writes, "Increasing all parents and students' knowledge about water safety and drowning prevention, as well as how to access swim lessons for all ages of children, including children living in lower income families, is a critical piece of the drowning prevention strategic plan for California. AB 1005 provisions will help move California toward making drowning rare rather than common on the road to achieving zero fatal drownings in our state. AB 1005 addresses five actions necessary for us to bring about this critical public health and safety goal."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- 1) The California Department of Education (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.
- 2) The California Department of Public Health (DPH) may incur additional, unknown General Fund costs to review and evaluate existing statutes and regulations regarding drowning prevention.

VOTES:**ASM EDUCATION: 9-0-0**

YES: Muratsuchi, Hoover, Addis, Alvarez, Bonta, Castillo, Garcia, Lowenthal, Patel

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 14-0-1

YES: Wicks, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Hart, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Sanchez

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0-2

YES: 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

ABS, ABST OR NV: Lee, McKinnor

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