

An Act Concerning Pool Safety at Public Schools. **Public Act No. 13-161:**

**PA 13-161: AAC Pool Safety at Public Schools** – sections of the bill:

(b) Starting July 1, 2013, requires that in addition to the person responsible for conducting any student aquatic activity at a school swimming pool, there shall be at least one qualified swimming coach, qualified educator, or qualified lifeguard solely responsible for monitoring swimmers

(c) Starting July 1, 2014, no board of education shall offer a physical education course unless there is at least 1 qualified educator serving as instructor and implementing the school swimming pool safety plan and 1 qualified educator, swimming coach or lifeguard whose primary responsibility is monitoring the swimmers

(d) Starting July 1, 2014, no local or regional board of education may allow a student to participate in any interscholastic athletic activity in a school swimming pool unless there is at least 1 person serving as coach who is responsible for implementing the school swimming pool safety plan, and one qualified educator, coach or lifeguard whose primary responsibility is monitoring the swimmers

(e) Starting July 1, 2014, no local or regional board of education shall offer any extracurricular activity at a school swimming pool unless there is at least 1 qualified lifeguard and 1 person responsible for implementing the school swimming pool safety plan

(f) By July 1, 2014, each local or regional board of education that offers student aquatic activities at a school shall adopt a school swimming safety plan that shall ensures compliance with this law and includes any other provisions deemed necessary to ensure student safety

**OLR Bill Analysis** – how the law affects staffing, qualifications and policy [[Office of Legislative Research](#)]

**sHB 6503: AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC SCHOOL POOL SAFETY.**

**SUMMARY:**

This bill (1) requires all public schools to have at least two qualified staff members on duty for all classes at a swimming pool and (2) establishes minimum qualifications for pool staff.

It requires all local and regional boards of education to develop swimming pool safety plans. Also, by July 1, 2014, the public health commissioner must adopt regulations to include swimming pools and natatoriums in schools in the existing regulations regarding public pools.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2013

**QUALIFICATIONS AND STAFFING**

***Minimum Staffing***

The bill requires a board of education that offers a physical education course using a swimming pool to have at least one instructor and another instructor or a lifeguard on duty to supervise the students for all pool classes. The instructor and the lifeguard must meet the bill's qualifications.

### ***Instructors***

The bill requires all certified physical education instructors (i.e. , teachers, administrators, or other professional staff) who teach courses using a swimming pool to (1) be a certified lifeguard; (2) be certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation offered by the American Heart Association (AHA) or the American Red Cross (ARC); and (3) complete a first aid course offered by the AHA, ARC, public health department, or any health director, as certified by the agency or director offering the course.

### ***Lifeguards***

The bill allows a local or regional board of education to hire a lifeguard to help the swimming instructor supervise the swimming class if the lifeguard is at least 16 years old and meets the above criteria for an instructor. The lifeguard must be under the supervision of the certified instructor.

### **POOL SAFETY PLAN**

Under the bill, any board that offers a physical education course using a pool must develop a pool safety plan. The plan must, at a minimum, include best practices regarding pool safety and conform with the bill's provisions and the state Public Health Code.

### **BOTTOM LINE:**

Effective immediately, you need a lifeguard on duty at the pool anytime people are in and around the pool.

Physical education classes, recreational swimming, swimming and diving practices and meets, during and before- and after-school activities in and around the pool are included in "aquatic activities." People in and around the pool for any reason is considered "aquatic activity." Physical education classes conducted in the aquatic environment, meaning in and around the pool, must have a lifeguard who is not involved in the swimming activity, with no other duty at the time that people are in or around the pool than to lifeguard. Qualified means that the lifeguard must be currently certified as such. In the case of the swim coach, a qualified lifeguard is required in addition to the coach. The lifeguard's sole responsibility while people are in and around the pool is to lifeguard.