

SENATE, No. 213

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
208th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1998 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator NICHOLAS J. SACCO

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Requires electrical inspections of swimming pools open for members, residents or the public.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



S213 SACCO

2

1 AN ACT concerning certain swimming pools and supplementing
2 P.L.1975, c.217 (C.52:27D-119 et seq.).

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. As used in this act:

8 "Bonding and grounding certificate" means a document issued by
9 a certified electrical testing agency that verifies the electrical
10 continuity of the bonding and grounding system of a swimming pool.

11 "Swimming pool" means a swimming pool, hot tub, or spa located
12 on any property other than one or two family residential property and
13 includes but is not limited to swimming pools open for the use of
14 members, residents or the public.

15 "Electrical certificate of approval" means a document issued by the
16 enforcing agency that verifies that all wiring located in or about the
17 pool pump house or similar structure and associated electrical
18 equipment is in compliance with the National Electrical Code.

19

20 2. a. A swimming pool shall not be opened for use or occupied in
21 whole or in part by any person until a valid bonding and grounding
22 certificate and electrical certificate of approval are issued. The
23 bonding and grounding certificate shall be evidence of a bonding
24 system that connects all the metal non-electric parts of the swimming
25 pool, including any metal fence within five feet of the water line,
26 measured in a direct line. The electrical certificate of approval shall
27 not be issued unless a valid bonding and grounding certificate has been
28 issued.

29 b. The bonding and grounding certificate shall be valid for a period
30 of five years from the date of issuance. The electrical certificate of
31 approval shall be renewed annually upon completion of a satisfactory
32 inspection by the enforcing agency, which may charge a fee for each
33 inspection. A swimming pool that is operated on a seasonal basis shall
34 not be opened for the season until a new electrical certificate of
35 approval has been issued.

36 c. If the inspection reveals any defective electrical condition on the
37 pool premises that condition shall be repaired by an electrical
38 contractor licensed in the State of New Jersey prior to issuance of the
39 electrical certificate of approval.

40 d. The bonding and grounding certificate and the electrical
41 certificate of approval shall be posted in or about the pool pump house
42 or structure that encloses the pool wiring.

43

44 3. This act shall take effect on the 60th day after enactment.

S213 SACCO

3

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33

STATEMENT

This bill would establish a basic level of electrical standards for swimming pools. It would supplement the "State Uniform Construction Code Act," P.L.1975, c.217 (C.52:27D-119 et seq.), to require the issuance of two documents, a bonding and grounding certificate and an electrical certificate of approval, before a pool could be opened for use or occupied by any person. The bill's provisions would apply to pools, hot tubs and spas located on any property other than one or two family residential property.

The bonding and grounding certificate would verify the electrical continuity of the bonding and grounding system of the pool. It would be issued by a certified electrical testing agency and would be valid for five years from the date of issuance.

The electrical certificate of approval would verify that all wiring located in or about the pool pump and associated electrical equipment complies with the National Electrical Code. It would be issued annually by the construction code enforcing agency upon completion of a satisfactory inspection and payment of a fee that would cover the enforcing agency's administrative costs. The bill provides that any defective electrical condition on the pool premises revealed by the inspection must be repaired by a licensed electrical contractor before the enforcing agency may issue the electrical certificate of approval.

The bill would take effect 60 days after enactment.

The bill is designed to improve the life safety conditions of workers and the public at large. It is intended to prevent electrocutions associated with swimming pool use such as occurred at an apartment complex in North Brunswick in the summer of 1994 when a lifeguard touched a pump with faulty wiring. During the summer of 1995, the Department of Health issued a Health Alert Bulletin which contained a warning to the employees and owners of public swimming pools concerning the potential life safety dangers of electrical systems associated with pools.