

Modification of Minnesota Statutes Relating to Public Swimming Pools

HF3812 / SF2833

Description

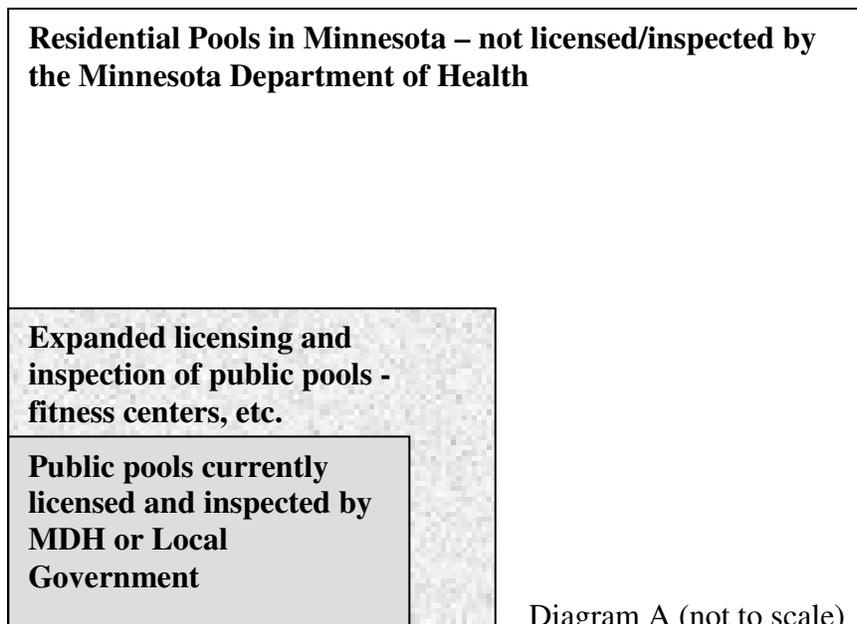
Minnesota Statutes 144.1223 and 157 are being modified to achieve the following:

- Licensure and inspection of all currently unlicensed public swimming pools;
- Improvement of safety requirements for public swimming pools;
- Improvement of construction standards for public swimming pools;
- Require construction plans to be certified by a Minnesota-licensed professional engineer;
- Simplification of language regarding plan review fees; and
- Consistency with the purposes of the federal Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act into Minnesota Statutes.

Background

Nationally, there have been notorious swimming pool accidents that resulted in the creation of federal legislation. There was one notorious swimming pool accident in Minnesota in 2007 resulting in requests to improve the safety requirements for public swimming pools.

As Diagram A depicts, there is a current gap in the requirement for licensure and inspection of public swimming pools. Currently, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) only licenses and inspects public swimming pools in establishments that serve food. Other public swimming pools that are not currently inspected may be located in fitness centers, parks, apartment buildings, etc.



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MDH has delegation agreements with 40 counties and 14 cities that license and inspect public swimming pools in areas not covered by MDH. The licensure and inspection of public swimming pools located in areas not associated with a food establishment varies according to the local jurisdiction's regulations. Plans for all public swimming pools must be approved by MDH.

Proposal

- Modify Minnesota Statutes 144 to provide requirements for increased swimming pool safety.
- Modify Minnesota Statutes 157 to provide for licensure of public swimming pools not located in a food establishment.
- All public swimming pools will be treated equally by MDH.

It is estimated that this proposal will require approximately an additional 500-700 public swimming pools to be licensed and inspected by MDH. Two additional inspectors will be needed.

Local units of government affected by this proposal are able to apply license fees to recover the cost of inspections. It is unknown how many unlicensed and uninspected public swimming pools are located in each local jurisdiction.

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