

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

HOUSE BILL 4035

By: Townley

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to public health and safety; regulating public pools and spas by the State Department of Health; providing exceptions to regulations; providing promulgation of rules; providing certain regulations in certain circumstances; providing for public nuisance; repealing 63 O.S. 2021, Sections 1-1013, 1-1013.1, 1-1013.2, 1-1014, 1-1015, 1-1016, 1-1016A, 1-1016B, 1-1017, 1-1018, 1-1019, 1-1020, 1-1020.1, and 1-1021 which relate to public pools and spas regulations and guidelines; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-1022 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The State Department of Health shall regulate public pools and spas. The Department shall not regulate:

1. Spray pads, spray grounds, or splash pads intended for use by children in which the water is supplied by a system of sprays and does not accumulate above ground;

2. Pools located at private residences;

1 3. Pools run by a Homeowner's Association where pools or spas
2 are limited to use by the homeowner group and their nonpaying
3 guests; and

4 4. Public or semipublic pools where the main objective is the
5 external cleansing of the body.

6 B. The State Commissioner of Health shall promulgate rules for
7 the safety and sanitation of public pools and spas, fees for
8 construction permit applications, fees for operation license
9 applications, fines for violations of safety and sanitation
10 requirements, and revocation standards for noncompliance.

11 Municipalities with a population of five thousand (5,000) or less
12 shall be charged no more than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for
13 construction permit applications and for operation license
14 applications.

15 C. All public pool owners shall apply for a construction permit
16 on a form designated by the State Department of Health. Pool and
17 spa designs shall be based on the portions of the International
18 Swimming Pool and Spa Code promulgated into rule by the State
19 Department of Health. Construction permit applications shall
20 include plans prepared by a licensed professional engineer. Pool
21 and spa owners must possess a construction permit from the State
22 Department of Health prior to beginning construction.

1 D. Public pools and spas shall be licensed annually by the
2 Department. Public pool and spa owners shall apply for licensure on
3 a form designated by the Department.

4 E. Public pool and spa owners must allow an authorized
5 representative from the State Department of Health access for the
6 purposes of an inspection. Public pool and spa owners, managers,
7 operators, and attendants shall be responsible for maintaining
8 sanitary and safe conditions. All owners, managers, operators, and
9 attendants in charge of a public pool or spa shall be responsible
10 for ensuring safety sanitation requirements are met when
11 operational. All pool and spa owners shall maintain records
12 demonstrating compliance to provide to the State Department of
13 Health upon request. The Department shall report any suspected
14 illegal activity on the premises of licensed public pools and spas
15 to the appropriate enforcement authority.

16 F. Every public pool and spa shall be secured for the purposes
17 of preventing public access during the months in which it is not
18 operational. Public pools and spas which are out of compliance with
19 safety and sanitation requirements during three consecutive
20 inspections, shall be considered a public nuisance. These pools
21 shall be considered permanently closed by the municipality in which
22 the public pool is located. Permanently closed pools shall be
23 completely filled in or secured by constructing or utilizing a
24 barrier adequate for the prevention of unauthorized persons.

1 Municipalities may secure permanently closed public pools and spas
2 and charge the costs thereof against the taxes of the owner.

3 Permanently closed pools secured by a barrier must complete the
4 initial licensure process prior to opening to the public.

5 Permanently close pools that have been filled in, shall be required
6 to complete the construction permit application process prior to the
7 completion of the initial licensure application process.

8 SECTION 2. REPEALER 63 O.S. 2021, Sections 1-1013, 1-
9 1013.1, 1-1013.2, 1-1014, 1-1015, 1-1016, 1-1016A, 1-1016B, 1-1017,
10 1-1018, 1-1019, 1-1020, 1-1020.1, and 1-1021, are hereby repealed.

11 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.
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