



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 263

LCO No. 1361



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT CONCERNING WATER SAFETY AND SWIM INSTRUCTION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) For the purposes of this
2 section, "eligible participant" means any individual under seventeen
3 years of age who (1) resides in a qualified census tract, as defined in
4 section 4-66c of the general statutes, (2) is eligible for the supplemental
5 nutrition assistance program administered by the Department of Social
6 Services pursuant to the federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and
7 section 17b-2 of the general statutes, or (3) is eligible for the federal
8 Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children
9 administered by the Department of Public Health pursuant to section
10 19a-59c of the general statutes.

11 (b) Not later than May 1, 2027, the Department of Energy and
12 Environmental Protection shall, within available appropriations,
13 establish and administer a program to provide swimming lessons free
14 of charge, on an annual basis, to eligible participants during the summer
15 months. The department may contract with one or more nonprofit
16 entities that provide swimming lessons and water safety skills

17 instruction to provide swimming lessons under the program.

18 (c) The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection may
19 accept gifts, grants and donations, from any source, public or private,
20 for the purpose of establishing and administering such program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To require the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to establish and administer an annual program to provide free-of-charge swimming lessons to certain children.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]