

SENATE No. 992

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James E. Timilty

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to swimming pool safety.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

James E. Timilty

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Bristol and Norfolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. S01420 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT RELATIVE TO SWIMMING POOL SAFETY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 140 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by striking out section 206 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

3 Section 206. (a) Every public and semipublic outdoor inground swimming pool shall be enclosed
4 by a fence 6 feet in height and firmly secured at ground level provided that any board or stockade fence or
5 structure shall be at least 5 feet in height, but if over 5 feet in height, the fence shall be chain link. Such
6 enclosure, including gates therein, shall not be less than 6 feet above the ground, and any gate shall be
7 self-latching with latches placed 4 feet above the ground or otherwise made inaccessible from the outside
8 to children up to 8 years of age. Such enclosure shall be constructed of such material and maintained so as
9 not to permit any opening in such enclosure, other than a gate, wider than 3 inches at any point along the
10 enclosure. Any such pool shall be equipped with at least 1 life ring and a rescue hook.

11 Every outdoor inground swimming pool open to the public, other than a public inground
12 swimming pool fed by a spring or stream shall be drained or covered within 7 days of closing.

13 For the purposes of this section, "semipublic outdoor inground pool" shall mean a swimming,
14 wading pool, spa or hot tub on the premises of, or used in connection with, a hotel, motel, condominium,

15 trailer court, apartment house, country club, youth club, school, camp, or similar establishment where the
16 primary purpose of the establishment is not the operation of the swimming facilities. Semipublic outdoor
17 inground swimming pool shall also mean a pool, spa or hot tub constructed and maintained by groups for
18 the purposes of providing bathing facilities for members and guests only.

19 Every public and semipublic outdoor inground swimming pool shall be inspected annually by the
20 inspector of buildings of each city and town in which the pool is located.

21 Any owner or manager of such public or semipublic pool who fails to comply with this section
22 shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000.

23 (b) Whoever owns or leases a private swimming pool, wading pool, spa or hot tub or leases
24 property with a swimming pool, wading pool, spa or hot tub located thereon, shall enclose such pool, spa
25 or hot tub in accordance with the Code of Massachusetts Regulations relative to enclosures for private
26 swimming pools, spas and hot tubs. Whoever fails to comply with said regulations shall be punished by a
27 fine of not more than \$1,000.

28 SECTION 2. Subsection (b) of section 206 of chapter 140 of the General Laws, inserted by
29 section 1 of this act shall apply to swimming pools, wading pools, spas or hot tubs constructed on or after
30 the effective date of this act.

31 SECTION 3. Said subsection (b) of said section 206 of said chapter 140 shall apply to swimming
32 pools, wading pools, spas or hot tubs, that existed before the effective date of this act, 1 year after the
33 effective date of this act.