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1  
2 An act relating to the Swimming Lesson Voucher  
3 Program; creating s. 514.073, F.S.; creating the  
4 program within the Department of Health for a  
5 specified purpose; requiring the department to  
6 establish a network of swimming lesson vendors to  
7 participate in the program; authorizing the department  
8 to contract with certain nonprofit organizations to  
9 assist in establishing the network; requiring the  
10 department or a contracted nonprofit organization to  
11 attempt to secure a vendor in each county; requiring  
12 certain vendors to participate in the program if  
13 requested by the department; requiring the department  
14 to establish an application process; specifying  
15 eligibility criteria for the program; providing that  
16 the program is subject to specific appropriation;  
17 authorizing the department to seek grants or other  
18 public and private funding for the program; requiring  
19 the department to adopt rules; providing an  
20 appropriation; providing an effective date.

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22 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

23  
24 Section 1. Section 514.073, Florida Statutes, is created to  
25 read:

26 514.073 Swimming Lesson Voucher Program.—

27 (1) There is created within the department the Swimming  
28 Lesson Voucher Program. The purpose of the program is to  
29 increase water safety in this state by offering vouchers for

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30 swimming lessons at no cost to families with an income of no  
31 more than 200 percent of the federal poverty level who have one  
32 or more children 4 years of age or younger.

33 (2) The department shall do all of the following to  
34 implement the program:

35 (a) Establish a network of swimming lesson vendors that  
36 will accept the vouchers offered by the program in exchange for  
37 providing swimming lessons. To establish the network, the  
38 department may contract directly with swimming lesson vendors or  
39 contract with one or more nonprofit organizations that promote  
40 swimming safety to subcontract with and manage swimming lesson  
41 vendors in one or more counties, or both. To ensure that  
42 swimming lessons are available throughout this state, the  
43 department, either directly or through a contracted nonprofit  
44 organization, must attempt to secure at least one such vendor in  
45 each county. Any swimming lesson vendor that offers swimming  
46 lessons at a public pool that is owned or maintained by a county  
47 or municipality must, if requested by the department or by a  
48 nonprofit organization contracted by the department, participate  
49 in the program.

50 (b) Establish a method for members of the public to apply  
51 for swimming lesson vouchers and for determining an applicant's  
52 eligibility. The department shall establish eligibility criteria  
53 necessary for a family to receive one or more vouchers from the  
54 program, including, but not limited to, the following:

55 1. The age of each child for whom a voucher is being  
56 sought, who may be no more than 4 years of age.

57 2. The family income level, which may be up to 200 percent  
58 of the federal poverty level.

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59           3. The family's address of residency in this state.  
60           (c) Subject to specific appropriation, issue vouchers to  
61 eligible applicants.  
62           (3) The department may seek grants or other public or  
63 private funding for the program.  
64           (4) The department shall adopt rules to implement the  
65 program.  
66           Section 2. For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the sum of  
67 \$500,000 in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the General  
68 Revenue Fund to the Department of Health to fund the Swimming  
69 Lesson Voucher Program established by this act.  
70           Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.