

HB 581

2024

1 A bill to be entitled
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 contract with and establish a network of swimming
7 lesson vendors to participate in the program;
8 requiring the department to attempt to secure a vendor
9 in each county; requiring certain vendors to
10 participate in the program if requested by the
11 department; requiring the department to establish an
12 application process; specifying eligibility criteria
13 for the program; providing that the program is subject
14 to specific appropriation; authorizing the department
15 to seek grants or other public and private funding for
16 the program; requiring the department to adopt rules;
17 providing an effective date.

18
19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

20
21 Section 1. Section 514.073, Florida Statutes, is created
22 to read:

23 514.073 Swimming Lesson Voucher Program.—

24 (1) There is created within the department the Swimming
25 Lesson Voucher Program. The purpose of the program is to

26 increase water safety in this state by offering vouchers for
27 swimming lessons at no cost to families with an income of no
28 more than 200 percent of the federal poverty level who have one
29 or more children 4 years of age or younger.

30 (2) The department shall do all of the following to
31 implement the program:

32 (a) Contract with and establish a network of swimming
33 lesson vendors that will accept the vouchers offered by the
34 program in exchange for providing swimming lessons. To ensure
35 that the swimming lessons are available throughout this state,
36 the department must attempt to secure at least one such vendor
37 in each county. Any swimming lesson vendor that offers swimming
38 lessons at a public pool that is owned or maintained by a county
39 or municipality must, if requested by the department,
40 participate in the program.

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

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

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

50 3. The family's address of residency in this state.

HB 581

2024

51 (c) Subject to specific appropriation, issue vouchers to
52 eligible applicants.

53 (3) The department may seek grants or other public or
54 private funding for the program.

55 (4) The department shall adopt rules to implement the
56 program.

57 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.