HB 2858 (2nd reading) Toth, Romero (CSHB 2858 by Button)

SUBJECT: Adopting a statewide code for swimming pools and spas

COMMITTEE: Urban Affairs — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 8 ayes — Button, J. González, Goodwin, E. Johnson, Middleton, Morales,

Patterson, Swanson

1 nay — Shaheen

WITNESSES: For — Brett Abbott, Peter Batterton, Association of Pool and Spa

Professionals; Bill E. Irvin, Texas Pool and Spa Coalition; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Steve Koebele, Aquatic Professionals Education Council; Mike Church, Cody Pools, Inc.; Jake Posey, Independent Pool and Spa Service Association (IPSSA); Kelly Sadler, International Code

Council; David King)

Against — None

On — (Registered, but did not testify: Stephen Pahl, Department of State

Health Services)

DIGEST: CSHB 2858 would adopt the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code,

as it existed on May 1, 2019, as the municipal swimming pool and spa

code in the state.

The International Swimming Pool and Spa Code would apply to all construction, alteration, remodeling, enlargement, and repair of swimming pools and spas, including swimming pool enclosures, in any municipality

that elected to regulate pools or spas.

The bill would allow a municipality to establish procedures for the adoption of local amendments to the code and for the administration and

enforcement of the code.

The bill would allow a municipality to review and adopt amendments made by the International Code Council to the International Swimming

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Pool and Spa Code after May 1, 2019.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.

SUPPORTERS SAY:

CSHB 2858 would implement a common statewide code standard for public and residential swimming pools and spas. The current patchwork of regulations across the state makes it difficult for businesses to maintain common protocols and stock supplies across different jurisdictions. A statewide code would create efficiencies and promote safety in pools and spas across Texas.

The bill would allow municipalities to amend the code to address local concerns and would not require them to regulate pools and spas at all, so it would not infringe on local control.

OPPONENTS SAY: CSHB 2858 would adopt a one-size-fits-all approach to pool and spa code that would not be a good fit for a state as large and diverse as Texas.