

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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SB-1218

AN ACT CONCERNING WATER SAFETY AND SWIM
INSTRUCTION.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Cost	Approx. \$1 million/6,000 lessons	

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a significant cost to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) associated with requiring the department to establish and administer a free swim program to certain children who qualify. It is estimated that every 6,000 lessons administered by DEEP will result in an additional cost of approximately \$1 million.¹

It is estimated that there are approximately 228,620 SNAP households and 28,442 WIC children who could qualify under the program.² The exact number of eligible participants would be dependent upon where the children reside, as only families who reside in a qualified census tract are eligible.

¹ The cost estimate is based on an existing free swim program administered by DEEP, which provides free swim lessons at various state parks. This program was funded with \$1 million in ARPA funds allocated to DEEP (\$500,000 in FY 22 and \$500,000 in FY 23).

²<https://www.fns.usda.gov/data-research/data-visualization/program-participation>

In addition to the \$1 million cost for each 6,000 lessons, DEEP would require up to \$50,000 annually for consulting and administrative costs associated with administering the program.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and the number of lessons provided.