



February 20, 2014

Dear Pool & Spa Massachusetts Professional:

On January 17, 2013 Senate bill 85 by Senator Clark was filed. This bill would create two licenses for our industry (one for a pool builder and one for pool service and repair). The proposed legislation would not only elevate the professionalism of our industry, but most importantly protect consumers from those who are not properly trained in swimming pool and spa installation or repair and service work.

The construction, service, and repair of pools and spas **IS** a skilled profession. Consumers have a right to know that the contractor they hire has a minimum level of training – just like they do when they hire an electrician or a plumber, licensed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. APSP does not want to limit entrance into the pool and spa profession; our goal is to simply ensure that the level of training required safeguards both the contractor and the consumer.

There has been a plethora of new Federal and State Laws and Rules designed to protect pool owners and swimmers. There are national codes and standards one should be using when building or servicing a pool or spa. Requiring knowledge of such requirements to ensure that a pool and spa is built to proper safety and design standards is imperative. Individuals who are not aware of these minimum requirements will negatively affect pool owners and swimmers, causing damage to the pool or worse, injury or death.

Legislation requiring licensing for pool and spa professionals has been passed in other states; including California, Connecticut, Florida, and in some localities in New York. Massachusetts is now considering such and we believe being **pro-active** and working to ensure the **RIGHT** legislation passes is what our industry needs to do. However, we also recognize there are some concerns with the bill as currently drafted – APSP has held meetings and phone calls to discuss those concerns over the last year. **APSP is committed to working with the industry to address such concerns.**

What you will find attached are proposed amendments APSP has drafted based on communication we have received from the industry, along with talking points on what the amendments do, as well as other documentation we believe will address concerns and questions.

We look forward to discussing these documents at the February 26 meeting (see attached flyer on meeting details).

Sincerely,

Board of Directors
APSP New England Chapter