

# Safety FIRST!

Submitted by George Young - April 06, 2011

**W**ith summer right around the corner both South Carolina and Texas are trying to add safe guards on insuring a safe summer in the world of aquatics.

In South Carolina every student will be required to complete a two year of swim education before graduating high school if Rep. Wendall Gillard has his way. Rep. Gillard proposed a bill that would be a state wide and state funded program on promoting swim education. Several years ago Rep. Gillard proposed a similar bill but it failed to gain traction over the concerns related to funding, transportation and available resources. Rep. Gillard hopes the second time around will be more successful. Great job Rep. Gillard!!!! Good luck on your mission and general concept of having every student in South Carolina being aware of water safety and promoting swim education.

In the State of Texas three bills are recently being introduced: #1: A bill would designate April as the State's official "Water Safety Awareness Month". #2: A bill that would require the State's Park and Wildlife Department to produce an instructional video in water safety. The video would be suitable for High School Students. #3: A bill would require alarm systems on certain residential pools. A Closer Look of the bills from Texas through George's eyes: Any time bills are introduced from the State and or Government agencies to promote water safety awareness it's a good thing! Not to get in to the politics and all but awareness and general education can be vital on having a safe summer around the pool, lakes, rivers and oceans.

An even closer look at the Texas #3 bill being introduced: Who should be responsible for safeguarding pools? Should the homeowner be responsible or maybe the pool builder should be responsible??? This bill will most likely have the hardest time in passing of the three aquatic safety bills being introduced in the State of Texas. After the pool is built...then the alarm or the fence with proper safety guidelines are to be installed???. Not likely to

happen! Building a pool with safeguards installed is a must! If the pool is built with all the aquatic safe guards being in-line with the safety guidelines in place on the first day the pool is used will be the landmark approach I believed should be followed. Nice job Texas!