

By the Committee on Education; and Senators Berman, Book, and Perry

581-03559-21

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to water safety and swimming
3 certification for K-12 students; providing a short
4 title; creating s. 1003.225, F.S.; defining the term
5 "water safety"; requiring public schools to provide
6 specified information to certain parents or students;
7 providing an effective date.

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9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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11 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Edna Mae McGovern
12 Act."

13 Section 2. Section 1003.225, Florida Statutes, is created
14 to read:

15 1003.225 Water safety and swimming certification.-

16 (1) For the purposes of this section, the term "water
17 safety" means age-appropriate education intended to promote
18 safety in, on, and around bodies of water and reduce the risk of
19 injury or drowning.

20 (2) Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, each public
21 school shall provide, to a parent who initially enrolls his or
22 her child in the school, information on the important role water
23 safety education courses and swimming lessons play in saving
24 lives. The information must be provided electronically or in
25 hardcopy and must include local options for age-appropriate
26 water safety courses and swimming lessons that result in a
27 certificate indicating successful completion, including courses
28 and lessons offered for free or at a reduced price. If the
29 student is 18 years of age or older, or is under the age of 21

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30 and is enrolling in adult education classes, the information
31 must be provided to the student.

32 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.