

House Bill 402

By: Representatives Hilton of the 48<sup>th</sup>, Dubnik of the 29<sup>th</sup>, Erwin of the 32<sup>nd</sup>, Jones of the 25<sup>th</sup>,  
Douglas of the 78<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 3 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to health of elementary and secondary school students, so as to require  
3 public schools and local school systems to provide water safety education information upon  
4 initial enrollment to parents and guardians of students under 18 years of age and directly to  
5 student 18 years of age and older; to provide for a definition; to provide for related matters;  
6 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Part 3 of Article 16 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
10 relating to health of elementary and secondary school students, is amended by adding a new  
11 Code section to read as follows:

12 "20-2-779.3.

13 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'water safety education' means education  
14 intended to promote safety in, on, and around bodies of water and reduce the risk of injury  
15 or drowning.

16 (b) Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, each public school or local school system  
17 shall provide the parents and guardians of each child initially enrolled in such school or  
18 school system with information on the important role water safety education courses and  
19 swimming lessons play in saving lives. Such information shall be provided in electronic  
20 or hard copy format and shall include options for age-appropriate water safety education  
21 courses and swimming lessons that can result in a certificate indicating successful  
22 completion, including courses and lessons offered for free or at a reduced price; provided,  
23 however, that such information shall be provided directly to students 18 years of age and  
24 older."

25 **SECTION 2.**

26 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.