

House Bill 402 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Hilton of the 48th, Dubnik of the 29th, Erwin of the 32nd, Jones of the 25th,
Douglas of the 78th, 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 annually provide water safety education
4 information to parents and guardians of students under 18 years of age and directly to
5 students who are 18 years of age or older; to provide for a definition; to provide for
6 construction; to provide for a short title; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
7 laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Edna Mae McGovern Act."

11 **SECTION 2.**

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

H. B. 402 (SUB)

15 "20-2-779.3.

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

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

28 (c) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to require public schools or local
29 school systems to:

30 (1) Provide water safety education courses or swimming lessons to students; or

31 (2) Excuse students from all or part of any school day to attend water safety education
32 courses or swimming lessons."

33

SECTION 3.

34 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.