

Senate Bill 50

By: Senators Burns of the 23rd, Dixon of the 45th, Still of the 48th, Echols of the 49th, Payne of the 54th and others

**AS PASSED**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 elementary and secondary education, so as to provide that local boards of education which  
3 operate a school with grades nine through 12 may provide instruction in lifeguarding and  
4 aquatic safety; to provide for the adoption of content standards by the State Board of  
5 Education; to provide that local boards of education may establish a curriculum for  
6 instruction in lifeguarding and aquatic safety; to provide for sources from which the  
7 curriculum may be developed; to provide for partnership between local school systems and  
8 public schools and governmental, public, and private entities for purposes of access to  
9 aquatic training facilities; to provide for instructor requirements if certification is offered as  
10 part of the curriculum; to provide for Carnegie unit curriculum credits; to provide for  
11 definitions; to provide for conforming changes; to provide for related matters; to provide for  
12 an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and secondary education, is amended in Part 14 of Article 6, relating to other educational programs, by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

"20-2-319.7.

(a) As used in this Code section, the term 'psychomotor skills' means skills using hands-on practice to support cognitive learning.

(b) Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, each local board of education which operates a school with grades nine through 12 may provide instruction in lifeguarding and aquatic safety.

(c) No later than January 1, 2026, the State Board of Education shall adopt content standards for such course, including objectives, reading materials, lesson plans, psychomotor skills requirements, and testing.

(d) Local boards of education may establish a curriculum for instruction in lifeguarding and aquatic safety, including but not limited to objectives, reading materials, lesson plans, psychomotor skills requirements, and testing.

(e) Such curriculum shall include one or more of the following and shall incorporate into the instruction the psychomotor skills necessary for lifeguarding and aquatic safety:

(1) An instructional program developed by the American Red Cross;

(2) An instructional program developed by the American Lifeguard Association;

(3) An instructional program developed by StarGuard ELITE;

(4) An instructional program developed by Stop Drowning Now; or

(5) An instructional program which is nationally recognized and is based on the most current national evidence based lifeguarding and aquatic safety guidelines.

(f) Local boards of education that provide instruction in lifeguarding and aquatic safety shall ensure such curriculum provides sufficient training to enable students to be qualified to work as lifeguards in this state upon successful completion of the curriculum.

41 (g) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to require students to become certified  
42 in lifeguarding and aquatic safety; provided, however, that, if a local board of education  
43 chooses to offer courses which result in certification being earned, such courses shall be  
44 taught by instructors in lifeguarding and aquatic safety authorized to conduct such an  
45 instructional program under subsection (e) of this Code section.

46 (h) Local school systems and public schools may be allowed to partner with other  
47 governmental entities, charitable entities, community organizations, and private businesses  
48 in this state to provide access to aquatic training facilities for purposes of completing the  
49 curriculum.

50 (i) On and after July 1, 2026, for the purpose of earning Carnegie unit curriculum credits  
51 at the high school level, satisfactory completion of a course in lifeguarding and aquatic  
52 safety may be accepted by the State Board of Education for one-half unit of elective credit  
53 for any student; provided, however, that such courses are taught in strict compliance with  
54 this Code section."

55 **SECTION 2.**

56 Said chapter is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-159.1,  
57 relating to focused programs of study, as follows:

58 "(a) The Department of Education shall develop, and the State Board of Education shall  
59 approve, state models and industry required content standards, after consultation with  
60 industries in Georgia and in collaboration with the Technical College System of Georgia  
61 and the University System of Georgia to ensure alignment with postsecondary  
62 opportunities, for the following focused programs of study, as defined in Code Section  
63 20-2-326, including, but not limited to:

- 64 (1) Agriculture, food, and natural resources;  
65 (2) Architecture and construction;  
66 (3) Arts, audio-video technology, and communications;

- 67 (4) Business, management, and administration;  
68 (5) Education and training;  
69 (6) Finance;  
70 (7) Health science;  
71 (8) Hospitality and tourism;  
72 (9) Human services;  
73 (10) Information technology;  
74 (11) Law, public safety, and security;  
75 (12) Manufacturing;  
76 (13) Government and public administration;  
77 (14) Marketing, sales, and service;  
78 (15) Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics;  
79 (16) Transportation, distribution, and logistics; ~~and~~  
80 (17) Energy; and  
81 (18) Lifeguarding and aquatic safety.

82 Such focused programs of study may be combined around these and other related clusters."

83 **SECTION 3.**

84 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
85 without such approval.

86 **SECTION 4.**

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