

HOUSE BILL 520

By Dixie

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6; Title 49, Chapter 7 and Title 49, Chapter 8, relative to water safety.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 3, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section, "water safety" means age-appropriate education developed to:

(1) Raise awareness of the risks of drowning;

(2) Teach parents and caregivers how to minimize the risks of drowning, especially for young children; and

(3) Promote water competency and safety in, on, and around bodies of water to reduce the risk of injury or drowning.

(b)

(1) Each LEA, including public adult education classes, shall provide information on the importance water safety and swimming lessons play in saving lives to each student enrolled in a school of the LEA, or a parent of a student if the student is under eighteen (18) years of age, each school year.

(2) The information must include information on local options available for age-appropriate water safety courses and swimming lessons, including courses offered for free or at a reduced price.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section, "water safety" means age-appropriate education developed to:

(1) Raise awareness of the risks of drowning;

(2) Teach parents and caregivers how to minimize the risks of drowning, especially for young children; and

(3) Promote water competency and safety in, on, and around bodies of water to reduce the risk of injury or drowning.

(b)

(1) Each public institution of higher education shall provide information on the importance water safety education and swimming lessons play in saving lives to each student enrolled in the institution each academic year.

(2) The information must include information on local options available for age-appropriate water safety courses and swimming lessons, including courses offered for free or at a reduced price.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to the 2023-2024 school year and subsequent school years.