

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1750

As of March 20, 2023

Title: An act relating to establishing Yori's law to promote education around water safety and drowning prevention.

Brief Description: Promoting water safety education.

Sponsors: Representatives Berg, Reed, Taylor, Cortes, Street, Ramel, Leavitt, Kloba, Tharinger, Fosse, Gregerson, Stonier, Entenman, Reeves, Slatter, Donaghy, Santos, Hackney, Morgan, Timmons, Ormsby, Orwall, Callan, Duerr, Berry, Davis, Chapman, Abbarno, Thai, Senn, Alvarado, Walen, Rule, Doglio, Ryu and Pollet.

Brief History: Passed House: 3/8/23, 96-0.

Committee Activity: State Government & Elections: 3/24/23.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Establishes May 15th as Water Safety Day.
- Encourages individuals working with children to provide water safety training and resources to the children and their families.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT & ELECTIONS

Staff: Megan Tudor (786-7478)

Background: Unintentional Injury—Drowning. In the United States, drowning is the leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 4 and is the second leading cause of death for children 5 to 14 years of age. There are multiple factors that increase the likelihood of drowning including swimming capability, unsupervised access to bodies of water, and not wearing a life jacket during water activities. Rates of drowning fatality vary by sex and race or ethnicity, with male children and children from communities of color at significantly higher risk. A notable barrier to better water safety and knowledge is family income level,

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with nearly 80 percent of children from lower income families reporting limited or no swimming ability.

Water Safety. May is designated as National Water Safety Month. The State Drowning Prevention Network was developed and is led by various state and local agencies to prevent drowning by hosting water safety events and trainings. Water competency is the ability to anticipate, avoid, and survive common drowning situations. There are three main components of water competency; water-safety awareness, basic swim skills, and the ability to recognize and respond to a swimmer in trouble. Critical layers of protection against drowning are categorized by physical environment, equipment, and personal strategies such as barriers, equipment, and close supervision.

Summary of Bill: The Legislature recognizes May 15th as Water Safety Day. Individuals working with children ages 18 and under are encouraged to provide training, educational materials, and other resources to the children and their families around water safety, water rescue, and drowning prevention, including a list of locations caregivers can access swimming lessons for their children. The act is named Yori's Law.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.