

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

As Engrossed: H1/30/23

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1157

5 By: Representatives Bentley, Beck, K. Brown, Crawford, Duffield, Evans, C. Fite, Gramlich, Haak,
6 Hawk, D. Hodges, Ladyman, Long, McAlindon, Painter, Pilkington, S. Richardson, Rose, Rye, Schulz
7 By: Senator J. Dotson
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For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND OPEN-
11 ENROLLMENT PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE
12 INFORMATION TO PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS REGARDING WATER
13 SAFETY EDUCATION COURSES AND SWIMMING LESSONS; AND
14 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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18 TO REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND
19 OPEN-ENROLLMENT PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS TO
20 PROVIDE INFORMATION TO PUBLIC SCHOOL
21 STUDENTS REGARDING WATER SAFETY EDUCATION
22 COURSES AND SWIMMING LESSONS.
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 1, is amended
28 to add an additional section to read as follows:

29 6-16-156. Water safety – Information provided by public schools –
30 Definition.

31 (a) For purposes of this section, "water safety" means age-appropriate
32 education that is intended to:

33 (1) Promote safety in, on, and around bodies of water; and

34 (2) Reduce the risk of injury or drowning.

35 (b)(1) Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, each public school
36 district and open-enrollment public charter school shall provide to a parent,



1 legal guardian, or person standing in loco parentis to a public school
2 student information on the important role that water safety education courses
3 and swimming lessons play in saving lives.

4 (2)(A) The information required under this subdivision (b)(1)
5 shall:

6 (i) Be provided electronically or in a hard copy
7 format; and

8 (ii) Include local options for water safety
9 education courses and swimming lessons that result in a certificate
10 indicating the successful completion of the water safety education course or
11 swimming lessons, including without limitation water safety education courses
12 and swimming lessons that are offered for free or at a reduced price.

13 (B) If a public school student is eighteen (18) years of
14 age or older, or is under the age of twenty-one (21) and is enrolling in
15 adult education classes, the information required under this subdivision
16 (b)(1) shall be provided to the public school student.

17 (c) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall
18 promulgate rules to implement this section.

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20 /s/Bentley

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23 **APPROVED: 2/21/23**
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