

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 101 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

As Engrossed: H1/30/23

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1157

By: Representatives Bentley, Beck, K. Brown, Crawford, Duffield, Evans, C. Fite, Gramlich, Haak,
Hawk, D. Hodges, Ladyman, Long, McAlindon, Painter, Pilkington, S. Richardson, Rose, Rye, Schulz
By: Senator J. Dotson

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND
OPEN-ENROLLMENT PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS TO
PROVIDE INFORMATION TO PUBLIC SCHOOL
STUDENTS REGARDING WATER SAFETY EDUCATION
COURSES AND SWIMMING LESSONS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

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

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

- (1) Promote safety in, on, and around bodies of water; and
- (2) Reduce the risk of injury or drowning.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

/s/Bentley

APPROVED: 2/21/23