ACT No. 722

HOUSE BILL NO. 963

1

BY REPRESENTATIVE ORGERON AND SENATORS FIELDS, JACKSON, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, AND TALBOT

AN ACT

2	To enact R.S. 17:276.1 and 3996(B)(67), relative to required instruction in public schools;
3	to require instruction in water safety for public school students; to provide relative
4	to materials used for such instruction; to require public school governing authorities
5	to adopt policies to implement such instruction; and to provide for related matters.
6	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
7	Section 1. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Riley Bourgeois Act".
8	Section 2. The legislature finds and declares the following:
9	(1) Drowning is the number one cause of accidental death among children ages one
10	to four and the second leading cause of accidental death in children under the age of fourteen
11	in our nation.
12	(2) According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drowning is the
13	third leading cause of death in children ages one to four in our state.
14	(3) For every child who dies from drowning, another eight children receive
15	emergency department care for non-fatal drowning.
16	(4) There were twenty-four infant and child drownings in our state in 2020.
17	Section 3. R.S. 17:276.1 and 3996(B)(67) are hereby enacted to read as follows:
18	§276.1. Water safety; required instruction
19	A.(1) Age- and grade-appropriate instruction on water safety shall be
20	provided to each public school student. Such instruction shall be incorporated into
21	an existing required course, such as health, physical education, or another course
22	deemed appropriate by the public school governing authority.

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1	(2) At a minimum, such instruction shall include instruction on the
2	following:
3	(a) The proper use of flotation devices.
4	(b) Awareness of water conditions.
5	(c) The proper supervision of swim areas.
6	(d) Safe behaviors in and around the water.
7	(e) The importance of pool barriers and fencing.
8	(f) The importance of formal swim lessons.
9	(g) The importance of avoiding alcohol and substance use with water
10	recreation.
1	(h) The importance of cardiopulmonary resuscitation for drowning victims
12	and the importance of administering such aid.
13	B.(1) Each governing authority shall adopt policies necessary for the
14	implementation of this Section.
15	(2) Each governing authority may customize the instruction for its student
16	population based on geographic characteristics and any other special circumstances
17	applicable to the school or school district.
18	C.(1) The state Department of Education shall establish and maintain a
19	clearinghouse of instructional materials and information regarding model water
20	safety curricula and best practices for water safety instruction.
21	(2) The department shall review the materials and information at least once
22	biannually and revise them based on updated information, as needed.
23	* * *
24	§3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements
25	* * *
26	B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and
27	except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a
28	charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this
29	Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be
30	exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are

1	applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for
2	the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:
3	* * *
4	(67) Water safety instruction, R.S. 17:276.1.
5	* * *
	SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
	PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
	GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

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APPROVED: