

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 963

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

1 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.



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:

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4 (67) Water safety instruction, R.S. 17:276.1.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_