

By: Representative Yancey

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 316

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE SPECIFIED
 2 INFORMATION TO CERTAIN PARENTS OR STUDENTS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF
 3 WATER SAFETY EDUCATION COURSES AND SWIMMING LESSONS; TO REQUIRE
 4 THE INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED ELECTRONICALLY OR IN HARD COPY AND
 5 INCLUDE LOCAL OPTIONS FOR AGE-APPROPRIATE WATER SAFETY COURSES AND
 6 SWIMMING LESSONS THAT RESULT IN CERTIFICATION INDICATING
 7 SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION; TO DEFINE THE TERM "WATER SAFETY"; AND FOR
 8 RELATED PURPOSES.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

10 **SECTION 1.** (1) For the purposes of this section, the term
 11 "water safety" means age-appropriate education intended to promote
 12 safety in, on, and around bodies of water and reduce the risk of
 13 injury or drowning.

14 (2) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, each public
 15 school shall provide, to a parent who initially enrolls his or her
 16 child in the school, information on the important role water
 17 safety education courses and swimming lessons play in saving
 18 lives. The information must be provided electronically or in hard
 19 copy and must include local options for age-appropriate water
 20 safety courses and swimming lessons that result in a certificate
 21 indicating successful completion, including courses and lessons



22 offered for free or at a reduced price. If the student is
23 eighteen (18) years of age or older, or is under the age of
24 twenty-one (21) and is enrolling in adult education classes, the
25 information must be provided to the student.

26 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
27 and after July 1, 2024.

