HB 1119

1	A bill to be entitled					
2	An act relating to water safety and swimming					
3	certification for K-12 students; providing a short					
4	title; creating s. 1003.225, F.S.; defining the term					
5	"water safety"; requiring district school boards and					
6	the governing authorities of private schools to ask					
7	the parent or guardians of certain children if the					
8	child has completed a water safety education course					
9	and swim lessons; providing that schools may ask for					
10	specified certification for certain children;					
11	requiring that schools offer a document containing					
12	specified information to certain children; requiring					
13	school districts to maintain certain records;					
14	4 providing that certain persons are not liable for					
15	5 specified injuries; exempting persons admitted to or					
16	attending adult education classes unless such persons					
17	are under a specified age; providing an effective					
18	date.					
19						
20	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:					
21						
22	Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Edna Mae McGovern					
23	Act."					
24	Section 2. Section 1003.225, Florida Statutes, is created					
25	5 to read:					
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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

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26 1003.225 Water safety and swimming certification.-27 (1) For the purposes of this section, the term "water 28 safety" means age-appropriate education intended to promote 29 safety in, on, and around bodies of water and reduce the risk of 30 injury or drowning. 31 (2) (a) Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, each 32 district school board and the governing authority of each 33 private school must ask the parent or guardian of each child who 34 is entitled to admittance to kindergarten, or who is entitled to 35 any other initial entrance into a public or private school in 36 this state, if the child has successfully completed a water 37 safety education course and age-appropriate swimming lessons. 38 1. If the child has taken such course and lessons, the 39 school may ask for a certificate proving such successful 40 completion. 41 2. If the child has not taken such course or lessons, the 42 school is required to offer a document that states the 43 importance of water safety education courses and swimming 44 lessons in saving children's lives and provides five options for 45 free or reduced priced swimming lessons. 46 The district shall keep records of parents who have (b) 47 submitted certification and who have not. 48 (3) A member or an employee of a district school board, or 49 a member or an employee of the governing board of a private 50 school, is not liable for any injury caused by swimming lessons

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51 <u>undertaken by a child pursuant to this section.</u> 52 <u>(4) This section does not apply to those persons admitted</u> 53 <u>to or attending adult education classes unless such students are</u> 54 <u>under 21 years of age.</u> 55 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

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