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H.B. 659
135th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Mathews and Lorenz

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SUMMARY

- Requires each school district, community school, STEM school, and chartered nonpublic school to provide information about the importance of water safety education upon a student's initial enrollment in the district or school.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Water safety education information

Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, the bill requires each school district, community school, STEM school, and chartered nonpublic school to, upon initial enrollment of a student, provide information on the importance of water safety education courses and swimming lessons for saving lives. Generally, that information must be given to the student's parent. However, in the case of students who are at least eighteen years old or enrolling in an adult education program and under twenty-one years old, the information must be given to the student. Under the bill, "water safety" means age-appropriate education intended to promote safety in, on, and around bodies of water and reduce the risk of injury or drowning.

Each district or school must provide the information electronically or in hard copy and include, if available, local options for water safety courses and age-appropriate swimming lessons that result in a certificate of completion, including courses and lessons offered for free or at a reduced price.¹

¹ R.C. 3313.473, 3314.03(A)(11)(d), and 3326.11.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	8-28-24
