STATE OF NEW YORK

9826

IN SENATE

April 7, 2026

Introduced by Sen. CLEARE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on New York City Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing water safety swim instruction and free swim lessons in schools in a city with a population of one million or more

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 927 to read as follows:

§ 927. Water safety swim instructor certification exam. The department shall establish and administer a free water safety swim instructor certification exam. Such examination shall cover topics recognizing and assessing water hazards, drowning prevention, stroke mechanics, and swimming techniques. The certification exam shall be administered annually to all teachers that apply to become certified in water safety swim instruction. The department may establish a water safety swimming preparation course to prepare teachers for the certification exam. Any teacher that is certified by the department pursuant to this section may teach water safety in all schools within the same district of employment.

§ 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section 928 to read as follows:

§ 928. Water safety swim instructor; certain school districts. Each school district within a city with a population of one million or more shall establish a free water safety swim course to be provided annually, and to the extent practicable, operating year-round, under the direction and advisement from the department. Such water safety swim course shall be taught by a water safety swim instructor certified pursuant to section nine hundred twenty-seven of this article and shall include instruction on water safety principles identifying potential water hazards, preventing drowning incidents, stroke mechanics and swimming techniques.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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