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February 19, 2021

**CONTACT**

Sarah Pariseau  
Office of Representative Dan Daley  
[Sarah.Pariseau@MyFloridaHouse.gov](mailto:Sarah.Pariseau@MyFloridaHouse.gov)  
850-717-5097

**Representative Dan Daley Files Bi-Partisan Legislation to Promote Swimming and Water Safety Lessons to Save Lives**

**Tallahassee, Fla. – Representative Dan Daley (D-Coral Springs) and Representative Jim Mooney (R-Islamorada)** have filed [HB 1119](#), known as Water Safety and Swimming Certification for K-12 Students. Drowning is the leading cause of death among children ages 1–4 in Florida, and our state also has the highest drowning rate among children in the nation. This legislation will promote swimming and water safety lessons to keep our children safe. This Bill asks parents of children entering any public or private school system to confirm whether their child has had swimming lessons, especially children entering kindergarten.

This legislation is not a mandate but will allow school authorities to identify students who may not know how to swim and provide opportunities for free or low-cost programs for families that are interested in their children's learning. In the Senate, **Senator Laurie Berman (D-Boynton Beach)** filed companion bill [SB 358](#).

“This bill is named after Edna Mae McGovern, a young constituent in Coral Springs who lost her life to a preventable tragedy. Since 2009, the family has been advocating for water safety lessons for all children to prevent another tragedy from happening again,” **said Representative Dan Daley**. “No parent should ever have to lose a child. Florida is home to an abundant amount of bodies of freshwater and saltwater. We need to do everything we can to ensure all of our residents, especially the youngest, know the basics of swimming and water safety.”

“It is an honor to be the prime co-sponsor of **HB 1119**. This bill is the first step in saving the lives of children in the state of Florida,” **said Representative Jim Mooney (R-Islamorada)**

“We made a promise to our beautiful daughter, Edna Mae, as we held her for the last time - we would not stop raising the awareness so desperately needed until we eradicate drownings. Losing our babies to a preventable tragedy should not continue to happen,” **said Shannon and Cassie McGovern, parents of Edna Mae McGovern.**

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