

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 First Extraordinary Session, 2023
4

Call Item 5

A Bill

SENATE BILL 4

5 By: Senators J. English, Crowell, J. Dotson, Gilmore, Hester, Hill
6 By: Representatives Evans, McAlindon
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CLARIFY ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING THE LOCKING
10 OF SCHOOL DOORS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR
11 OTHER PURPOSES.
12
13

Subtitle

15 TO CLARIFY ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING THE
16 LOCKING OF SCHOOL DOORS; AND TO DECLARE
17 AN EMERGENCY.
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-22-1011(a), concerning fire drills, is
23 amended to remove language that is inconsistent with Arkansas Code § 6-21-121
24 requiring exterior school doors to be closed and locked:

25 (a) It shall be the duty of the State Fire Marshal, or his or her
26 designee, to require teachers of public and private schools and all
27 educational institutions to have one (1) fire drill each month ~~and to keep~~
28 ~~all doors and exits unlocked during school hours.~~
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30 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
31 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that Arkansas law is currently
32 inconsistent and unclear regarding the duty to keep exterior school doors
33 closed and locked; that keeping exterior school doors closed and locked
34 impacts the public peace, health, and safety by keeping schools safe from
35 unwanted entry and protecting the safety and welfare of students and
36 teachers; and that this act is immediately necessary to ensure that school



1 buildings offer the intended protections for the students and teachers of the
2 state. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being
3 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and
4 safety shall become effective on:

5 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

6 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
7 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
8 bill; or

9 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
10 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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13 **APPROVED: 9/14/23**
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