

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

Act 1473 of the Regular Session

As Engrossed: S3/31/09 S4/2/09

A Bill

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009

SENATE BILL 861

4
5 By: Senator Broadway
6 By: Representative Cook

7
8
9 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

10 AN ACT TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF ARKANSAS
11 CODE TITLE 6 CONCERNING ACADEMIC FACILITIES AND
12 TRANSPORTATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

13
14 **Subtitle**

15 TO AMEND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF ARKANSAS
16 CODE TITLE 6 CONCERNING ACADEMIC
17 FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION.

18
19
20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

21
22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-11-105(a)(2)-(4) concerning the powers
23 and duties of the State Board of Education is amended to read as follows:

24 ~~(2) Prepare and distribute plans and specifications for the~~
25 ~~construction and equipment of school buildings and approve plans and~~
26 ~~expenditures of public school funds for all new school buildings;~~

27 ~~(3)(2)~~ Recommend courses of study for the public schools and
28 teacher training institutions;

29 ~~(4)(3)~~ Prescribe rules and regulations for the sanitary
30 ~~inspection of all buildings and for the examination of pupils to detect~~
31 contagious and infectious diseases and physical defects;

32
33 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-11-114 is repealed.

34 ~~6-11-114. Federal aid Receipt and administration for school~~
35 ~~facilities.~~



1 ~~The State Board of Education and the State Board of Workforce Education~~
2 ~~and Career Opportunities are designated to receive and administer any and all~~
3 ~~federal funds made available to this state for the purpose of assisting local~~
4 ~~school districts in providing elementary and secondary school facilities for~~
5 ~~general education programs and for vocational and adult education programs~~
6 ~~respectively.~~

7
8 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-11-116(a) concerning standards of
9 priority for school facilities projects is amended to read as follows:

10 (a) ~~The State Board of Education~~ Commission for Arkansas Public School
11 Academic Facilities and Transportation is granted authority to prescribe
12 principles, standards, and criteria to be followed in setting up priority of
13 projects, provided that such principles, standards, and criteria are not in
14 conflict with federal statutes.

15
16 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-19-101 is amended to read as follows:
17 6-19-101. Regulations and standards generally.

18 ~~The State Board of Education~~ Commission for Arkansas Public School
19 Facilities and Transportation shall ~~set up such regulations~~ promulgate rules
20 and standards governing the school transportation program in ~~the various~~
21 school districts ~~of Arkansas as will~~ that promote and provide a safe,
22 efficient, and economical system of pupil transportation.

23
24 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-19-102(e) concerning the authority to
25 transport students is amended to read as follows:

26 (e) The buses shall be of such specifications as may be prescribed by
27 uniform rules ~~and regulations~~ of the ~~State Board of Education~~ Commission for
28 Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation.

29
30 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-19-108 is amended to read as follows:
31 6-19-108. Bus drivers – Certification.

32 (a)(1) An applicant seeking employment as a driver or an operator of a
33 school bus, either privately or publicly owned, is required to take and pass
34 a series of tests as prescribed by the Department of Arkansas State Police
35 under § 27-23-108 and the Division of Public School Academic Facilities and
36 Transportation to determine the physical fitness and driving ability to serve

1 as a school bus driver.

2 (2) The tests shall include:

3 (A) a A physical examination given by a licensed physician
4 or ~~registered nurse~~ advanced practice nurse for school bus drivers, as
5 required by the division;

6 ~~an eye test, a written or oral test on rules and regulations of driving, a~~
7 ~~road test given under the supervision of the department, and such~~

8 (B) ~~other~~ Other requirements as may be prescribed by rules
9 ~~and regulations~~ issued jointly by the department and the division for
10 qualifications and fitness of school bus drivers; ~~and~~ In addition, the
11 ~~applicant shall participate in and pass~~

12 (C) a A successfully completed standard bus driver training
13 and preservice behind-the-wheel training program as prescribed by the
14 division.

15 (b) Upon successful completion and documentation of ~~these tests~~
16 training listed in subdivision (a)(2)(C) of this section, a certificate,
17 valid for one (1) year, shall be issued by the ~~department~~ division. The
18 ~~certificate shall be for a two year period. Upon the expiration of a~~
19 ~~certificate, the holder thereof shall take a new examination as required by~~
20 ~~this section before a new certificate may be issued.~~

21 (c)(1) ~~No~~ A school bus driver shall not be employed ~~to act~~ as
22 ~~chauffeur or~~ an operator of ~~any~~ a school bus to transport children to and
23 from school or school-sponsored activities unless he or she has
24 satisfactorily ~~passed the tests~~ completed the in-service training required
25 ~~herein~~ in subsection (d) of this section and possesses a current valid
26 certificate therefor.

27 (2) The certificate shall be required in addition to a
28 ~~chauffeur's license or operator's license~~ commercial driver's license and
29 ~~such~~ any additional qualifications ~~as may be~~ required by the school district
30 board of directors.

31 (d) ~~Each~~ A school bus driver who seeks a renewal of his or her bus
32 driver certificate shall provide proof that he or she has satisfactorily:

33 (1) ~~passed~~ Passed a physical examination given by a licensed
34 physician or advanced practice nurse within the previous two (2) years; and
35 ~~that he or she has satisfactorily~~

36 (2) ~~completed~~ Completed an in-service ~~workshop~~ training for

1 school bus drivers as prescribed by the division.

2 (e) ~~In the event that a qualified school bus operator as prescribed in~~
 3 ~~this subchapter shall die, resign or be ill, disabled, or otherwise not~~
 4 ~~available to operate a school bus and the school district board of directors~~
 5 ~~is not able to obtain a qualified bus operator with the certificate required~~
 6 ~~in this section, the~~ A school district board of directors may provide a
 7 substitute driver to operate a school bus on a temporary basis without a
 8 certificate until the next regularly scheduled school bus ~~operator's~~ driver's
 9 examination is held in the locality, if:

10 (1) A qualified school bus driver is not available to operate a
 11 school bus due to death, resignation, disability, illness, or other cause;
 12 and

13 (2) The school district board of directors is not able to obtain
 14 a qualified bus driver with a certificate.

15 (f) Extracurricular trips shall be made by certified ~~operators~~ drivers
 16 only.

17 (g) ~~Any~~ A person ~~or persons violating~~ who violates the provisions of
 18 this section ~~shall be~~ is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

19
 20 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 6-19-115 is amended to read as follows:
 21 6-19-115. Bus permit numbers.

22 (a) ~~(1) The State Board of Education~~ Commission for Arkansas Public
 23 School Academic Facilities and Transportation ~~is authorized and instructed to~~
 24 shall establish a system of permit numbers to be used in identifying school
 25 buses owned or operated by or in behalf of school districts in this state.

26 (2) The system of permit numbers shall assign an identifying
 27 prefix number to each school district with provisions for consecutive numbers
 28 thereafter for buses of the district.

29 (b) Each school district in this state shall be notified of the permit
 30 number assigned ~~such~~ the school district under this section and shall be
 31 furnished instructions for identifying all school buses owned or operated by
 32 or in behalf of ~~such~~ the school district.

33 (c) (1) The permit number assigned each school district and the school
 34 district name shall be painted in letters not less than six inches ~~(6")~~ (6")
 35 high on both sides and on the rear of all school buses owned by the district
 36 or used in behalf of the district. ~~Such~~

1
2 SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2507(d) concerning the Academic
3 Facilities Partnership Program is amended to read as follows:

4 ~~(d)(1) State financial participation under the program is not~~
5 ~~available until July 1, 2006.~~

6 ~~– (2) (A) With regard to an academic facilities project for which~~
7 ~~a school district intends to apply for state financial participation during~~
8 ~~Fiscal Year 2006-2007, the division shall notify the school district of the~~
9 ~~division's decision on the application and, if applicable, the estimated~~
10 ~~amount of state financial participation in the new construction project no~~
11 ~~later than May 1, 2006.~~

12 ~~– (B) Beginning in 2007, the~~ The division shall notify the
13 school district of the division's decision on the application and, if
14 applicable, the estimated amount of state financial participation in the new
15 construction project no later than May 1 of each odd-numbered year.

16 ~~(3)(2)~~ (2) The division's notice of its decision on a school
17 district's application for state financial participation in a new
18 construction project shall include an explanation of the evaluative factors
19 underlying the decision of the division to provide or not provide state
20 financial participation in support of the new construction project.

21 (3) The Commission for Arkansas Public School Academic
22 Facilities and Transportation may withdraw committed funds if a school
23 district had funding made available on:

24 (A) July 1, 2006, and does not begin construction, as
25 evidenced by a signed construction contract, by January 31, 2010; or

26 (B) July 1, 2007, and does not begin construction, as
27 evidenced by a signed construction contract, by January 31, 2011.

28 (4) If a construction project has not begun as required under
29 subdivision (d)(3) of this section due to the failure of a school district to
30 raise the school district's share of the project cost due to a failed millage
31 election prior to June 1, 2009, the division may exercise its authority under
32 § 6-21-811.

33
34 SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2507(e), concerning the Academic
35 Facilities Partnership Program, is amended to add an additional subdivision
36 to read as follows:

1 (3) If a school district fails to adhere to the timelines as
2 established in subsection (g) of this section, the agreement shall be void
3 and the state will have no further obligation to provide state funds to the
4 school district for the new construction project under the agreement.

5
6 SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2507, concerning the Academic
7 Facilities Partnership Program, is amended to add an additional subsection to
8 read as follows:

9 (g)(1) The Commission for Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities
10 and Transportation shall establish compliance dates for the:

11 (A) Execution of the partnership agreement;

12 (B) Start of the project design; and

13 (C) Start and ending of construction.

14 (2) Projects not meeting the compliance dates may be cancelled
15 by the commission and the state's financial participation, in whole or in
16 part, may be declared void after the school district has been provided:

17 (A) A notice of the failure to meet compliance dates; and

18 (B) An opportunity for a hearing before the
19 commission.

20
21 SECTION 14. Arkansas Code § 6-21-112(f)(5) concerning the Division of
22 Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation is amended to read as
23 follows:

24 (5)(A) Develop and implement an ongoing uniform process for
25 collecting, inventorying, and updating information on the state of condition
26 of all public school academic facilities in the state.

27 (B) If the process developed is an automated statewide
28 system, it shall encompass all school districts;

29
30 SECTION 15. Arkansas Code § 6-21-114(e), concerning the Commission for
31 Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation, is amended to
32 add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

33 (5) Receive and administer federal funds made available to the
34 state for the purpose of assisting local school districts in providing
35 elementary and secondary school facilities for:

36 (A) General education programs;

- 1 (B) Vocational programs; and
- 2 (C) Adult education programs.

3

4 SECTION 16. Arkansas Code § 6-21-116 is amended to read as follows:

5 ~~6-21-116. Approval of building plans~~ Tornado shelter construction.

6 (a) All building plans for new public school facilities may include a
7 tornado shelter or a designated reinforced area designed to withstand
8 tornadoes and high-speed winds.

9 (b)(1) School districts shall be required to generate funds to meet
10 the requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

11 (2) School districts may apply for grant funds to assist in the
12 construction of a tornado shelter or a designated reinforced area in new
13 public school facilities.

14 ~~(c) The Commission for Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities and~~
15 ~~Transportation shall promulgate rules to implement the requirements of this~~
16 ~~section~~ Facilities constructed under this section will be subject to review
17 under § 6-20-1407.

18

19 SECTION 17. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 21, Subchapter 1 is amended
20 to add an additional section to read as follows:

21 6-21-117. Leased academic facilities.

22 An academic facility leased by a school district shall:

23 (1) Not be entitled to facilities program funding under § 6-20-
24 2502(2)(B);

25 (2) Conform to the school facility standards defined in the
26 Arkansas School Facility Manual;

27 (3) Be inspected by the Division of Public School Academic
28 Facilities and Transportation to ensure that the facility complies with
29 required academic facility standards prior to the execution of a lease or a
30 renewal of an existing lease;

31 (4) Be eligible for a waiver commensurate with the Arkansas
32 School Facility Manual granted by the Commission for Arkansas Public School
33 Academic Facilities and Transportation; and

34 (5) Be exempt from the academic facility standards for the
35 duration of the replacement of an academic facility that is lost due to a
36 catastrophic event if the leased academic facility is used solely for the

1 purpose of providing an academic facility.

2
3 SECTION 18. Arkansas Code § 6-21-304(b)(2) concerning minimum
4 specifications for school buses is amended to read as follows:

5 (2) ~~The Department of Education~~ Commission for Arkansas Public
6 School Academic Facilities and Transportation shall have responsibility for
7 drawing up the minimum specifications for all school buses.

8
9 SECTION 19. Arkansas Code § 6-21-803(1), concerning the definition of
10 "academic facility", is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as
11 follows:

12 (E) A leased facility shall not be considered an academic
13 facility for the purpose of this subchapter.

14
15 SECTION 20. Arkansas Code § 6-21-806(a)(4) concerning the Academic
16 Facilities Master Plan Program is amended to read as follows:

17 (4) Submit evidence of the school district's insurance coverage
18 to the division ~~by July 1 of each even numbered year~~, including coverage
19 amounts, types of coverage, identification of buildings covered, policy
20 renewal dates, and all riders;

21
22 SECTION 21. Arkansas Code § 6-21-808(b)(2), concerning the Public
23 School Facilities Custodial, Maintenance, Repair, and Renovation Manual, is
24 amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

25 (I) Suggested schedule for the sanitary inspection of all
26 school buildings.

27
28 SECTION 22. Arkansas Code § 6-21-808(c)(2)(B), concerning the Public
29 School Facilities Custodial, Maintenance, Repair, and Renovation Manual, is
30 amended to read as follows:

31 (B)(i) Development and implementation of a work-request
32 system to allow others to inform a public school's maintenance department of
33 needs and to allow the responsible person to prioritize responses+.

34 (ii)(a) School districts shall be required to
35 participate in any state level computerized maintenance management system
36 designed to track work orders and preventative maintenance work established

1 by the division at no cost to the school district.

2 (b) The cost associated with additional maintenance modules by a
3 school district, shall be at the expense of the school district and may be
4 within the nine percent (9%) minimum maintenance expenditures under § 6-21-
5 808(d)(1)(A);

6
7 SECTION 23. Arkansas Code § 6-21-811(a)(1)(E) concerning the Academic
8 Facilities Distress Program is amended to read as follows:

9 (E) Material failure to comply with state law governing
10 purchasing ~~or~~ , bid requirements, or school construction related laws or
11 rules in relation to academic facilities projects;

12
13 /s/ Broadway

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15 APPROVED: 4/10/2009

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