

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013
4

As Engrossed: S4/2/13
A Bill

SENATE BILL 1146

5 By: Senator J. Hendren
6

7 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

8 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL
9 DISTRICTS TO OBTAIN COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS SCHOOL
10 *BUSES*; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

12
13 **Subtitle**

14 *TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL*
15 *DISTRICTS TO OBTAIN COMPRESSED NATURAL*
16 *GAS SCHOOL BUSES.*
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 19, Subchapter 1, concerning
22 transportation for elementary and secondary education, is amended to add an
23 additional section to read as follows:

24 6-19-128. Compressed Natural Gas School Bus Pilot Program.

25 (a) As used in this section:

26 (1) "Compressed natural gas" means a fossil fuel substitute
27 for gasoline, diesel fuel, propane, or liquid propane gas that is:

28 (A) Composed primarily of methane; and

29 (B) Compressed to less than 1% of the volume it occupies
30 at standard atmospheric pressure;

31 (2) "Compressed natural gas school bus" means a school bus
32 powered by compressed natural gas that is not owned by a school district
33 before its participation in the Compressed Natural Gas School Bus Pilot
34 Program; and

35 (3) "Qualified applicant" means a school district that applies
36 to the Compressed Natural Gas School Bus Pilot Program and that meets the



1 qualifications under subsection(c) of this section.

2 (b)(1) The Compressed Natural Gas School Bus Pilot Program is created
3 for the 2014 and 2015 fiscal years to provide compressed natural gas school
4 buses to four (4) public school districts.

5 (2) Each congressional district in the state may have one (1)
6 public school district participating in the program.

7 (3) Each school district in the state may apply to become a
8 participating school district in the program.

9 (4) If more than one (1) school district from a congressional
10 district applies to the program, the participating district will be selected
11 by random drawing from all qualified applicants submitted for a congressional
12 district.

13 ((5) The Division of Public School Academic Facilities and
14 Transportation shall run the program for its term.

15 (c)(1)(a) Each public school district participating in the program
16 shall be provided ten (10) compressed natural gas school buses.

17 (b) The school buses provided under the program shall be
18 purchased by the division based upon specifications and requirements
19 determined by the division.

20 (2) To qualify for the grant under subdivision (c)(1) of this
21 section each public school district seeking to participate in the program
22 shall submit an application in the form and manner established by the
23 division setting forth that the applicant:

24 (A)(i) Agrees to purchase ten (10) compressed natural gas
25 school buses, in addition to those provided under subdivision (c)(1) of this
26 section, before June 30, 2015.

27 (ii) The compressed natural gas school buses to be
28 purchased by the participating district shall meet or exceed:

29 (a) The specifications and requirements of the
30 compressed natural gas school buses provided by the division; and

31 (b) Applicable provisions of the rules of the
32 Commission for Arkansas Public School and Academic Facilities and
33 Transportation, as they existed on January 1, 2013;

34 (B) Either:

35 (i) Has reasonable access to refueling options to
36 allow for efficient use of the compressed natural gas school buses; or

37 (ii) Agrees, if the proposal calls for the

1 construction of a new refueling station, to provide access to the refueling
2 station to the general public; and

3 (C) Has sufficient resources to purchase, operate, and
4 maintain the compressed natural gas school buses under this section,
5 including information demonstrating that purchase, operation, and maintenance
6 will not cause a financial hardship on the applicant.

7 (3) In addition to the requirements for qualifying applicants
8 under subsection (c)(2) of this section, the *division* is authorized to
9 develop and require compliance with additional qualifications it deems
10 necessary.

11 (d) The *division* may promulgate rules to administer the program.

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13 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-20-803 is amended to read as follows:
14 6-20-803. Loans to local school districts.

15 (a) The maximum amount of money a local school district may borrow
16 from the Revolving Loan Fund shall be five hundred thousand dollars
17 (\$500,000).

18 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, a school district
19 participating in the Compressed Natural Gas School Bus Pilot Program under §
20 6-19-128 additionally may borrow up to one million five hundred thousand
21 dollars (\$1,500,000) for the purchase of new compressed natural gas school
22 buses.

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24 /s/J. Hendren

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27 **APPROVED: 04/12/2013**
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