Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 27-67-211 is amended to read as follows:

27-67-211. Highway closure during construction interference with traffic control devices or barricades.

(a) The State Highway Commission shall have full authority to close any state highway to traffic during such time as the commission may deem it necessary while work is being done thereon by the commission under the authority of this chapter or while it is necessary for the protection of the road during a period of overflow. During the time the road is closed, the commission may authorize the placing of suitable barricades and signs at each end of the portion of the road that is closed.

(b) Any person who shall remove the barricades or who shall use or attempt to use any section of a state highway thus closed to traffic shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor. Upon conviction, that person shall be fined not less than twenty-five dollars ($25.00) nor more than one hundred dollars ($100) and shall be liable to the state for any damage done.

As used in this section, "traffic control device" means a sign, signal, marking, or device placed or erected for the purpose of regulating, warning,
or guiding traffic.

(b) If a traffic control device or barricade is placed or erected to close a public highway under the authority of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department or local authorities on public highways, it is unlawful for a person to:

(1) Drive a vehicle through, under, over, or around the traffic control device or barricade; or

(2) Remove the traffic control device or barricade and enter the closed area.

(c) A violation of this section is punishable by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars ($100).

(d) A person convicted under this section shall:

(1) Pay restitution in an amount equal to the actual cost of the emergency response and the replacement of any damaged or lost emergency equipment; and

(2) Be liable for damage to property, or injury or death to a person caused by the violation.

/s/C. Douglas

APPROVED: 04/01/2017