

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 532

5 By: Senator J. English
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT CONCERNING WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATIONS; TO
9 REQUIRE ALL NEWLY CONSTRUCTED PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND
10 EXISTING PUBLIC SCHOOLS UNDERGOING ADDITIONS OR TOTAL
11 RENOVATIONS TO PROVIDE FOR WATER BOTTLE FILLING
12 STATIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 TO REQUIRE ALL NEWLY CONSTRUCTED PUBLIC
16 SCHOOLS AND EXISTING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
17 UNDERGOING ADDITIONS OR TOTAL RENOVATIONS
18 TO PROVIDE FOR WATER BOTTLE FILLING
19 STATIONS.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 21, Subchapter 1, is amended
26 to add an additional section to read as follows:

27 6-21-119. Water bottle filling stations.

28 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

29 (1) Water plays an important role in maintaining the overall
30 health of children;

31 (2) Drinking water may positively impact children's cognitive
32 performance in school;

33 (3) Drinking water may improve children's fine motor skills and
34 visual attention, which helps children with learning activities such as
35 reading;

36 (4) Drinking water can help people maintain a healthy weight;



1 and

2 (5) It is important to ensure all newly constructed public
3 schools and existing public school buildings undergoing additions or total
4 renovations incorporate adequate water bottle filling stations in order to
5 increase access to free, easily accessible, safe, and good-tasting drinking
6 water on school property.

7 (b) Beginning with public school buildings constructed or totally
8 renovated on or after July 1, 2021, the following buildings shall be equipped
9 with water bottle filling stations:

10 (1) A newly constructed public school building; and

11 (2) An existing public school building undergoing additions or
12 total renovations.

13 (c)(1) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, in
14 consultation with the Division of Public School Academic Facilities and
15 Transportation, shall approve the plans and specifications for a newly
16 constructed public school building or an existing public school building
17 undergoing additions or total renovations only if the plans and
18 specifications provide for the following:

19 (A) A minimum of one (1) water bottle filling station per
20 one hundred (100) people;

21 (B) A minimum of one (1) water bottle filling station on
22 each floor and wing of each school building proposed in the plans and
23 specifications; and

24 (C) A minimum of one (1) water bottle filling station
25 located in or near gymnasiums, cafeterias, and other high-traffic areas.

26 (2) A proposed water bottle filling station subject to approval
27 under subdivision (c)(1) of this section may be:

28 (A) Integrated into drinking fountains; and

29 (B) Touchless for sanitary reasons.

30 (d) A water bottle filling station installed in a public school
31 building as required under this section shall:

32 (1) Dispense clean, cooled, filtered drinking water;

33 (2) Be regularly cleaned to maintain sanitary conditions; and

34 (3) Be maintained on a regular basis to ensure proper
35 functioning.

36 (e)(1) Public school students and public school employees may bring

1 and carry water bottles to school, including in public school classrooms,
2 that:

- 3 (A) Are made of a material that is not easily breakable;
- 4 (B) Have a lid to prevent spills; and
- 5 (C) Are filled exclusively with water.

6 (2) A public school may prohibit a public school student or
7 public school employee from bringing a water bottle into:

- 8 (A) A library;
- 9 (B) A computer lab;
- 10 (C) A science lab; or
- 11 (D) Any other location in which it may present an issue to
12 have drinking water near other individuals or equipment.

13 (3) A public school may enact a disciplinary policy regarding
14 the misuse of water bottles by a public school student or a public school
15 employee.

16 (f) As used in this section:

17 (1) "Additions" means academic areas or spaces that are
18 constructed as a part of or separate additions to an existing academic area
19 or space in order to improve the state, condition, or efficiency of the
20 academic facility; and

21 (2) "Total renovation" means the replacement of all building
22 systems that are determined by the Division of Elementary and Secondary
23 Education to be in need of replacement in order to bring the facility to a
24 "like new" condition.

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