

1 State of Arkansas
2 80th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1995
4 By: Representative Wren

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1877

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO INCREASE SAFETY FOR ARKANSAS SCHOOL CHILDREN
9 WHO RIDE SCHOOL BUSES BY REQUIRING THAT ALL SCHOOL BUSES
10 BE FITTED WITH ELECTRIC, AIR, OR HYDRAULIC-OPERATED
11 CROSSING GATES; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER
12 PURPOSES."

Subtitle

15 "TO INCREASE SAFETY FOR ARKANSAS SCHOOL
16 CHILDREN WHO RIDE SCHOOL BUSES BY
17 REQUIRING THAT ALL SCHOOL BUSES BE
18 FITTED WITH ELECTRIC, AIR, OR HYDRAULIC-
19 OPERATED CROSSING GATES."

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

23 SECTION 1. (a) On and after *the effective date of this act*, any new
24 school bus used to transport students on regular routes or activities, or
25 functioning as a spare bus, shall be equipped with an electric, *air*, or
26 *hydraulic-operated* crossing gate designed to prevent students from crossing
27 too close to the front of the bus so that the driver is unlikely to see them.

28 (b) *On and after* July 1, 1997, all other school buses used to transport
29 students on regular routes or activities, or functioning as a spare bus,
30 shall be retrofitted with the electric, *air*, or *hydraulic-operated* crossing
31 gate described in this section.

32 (c) The Department of Education shall have responsibility for drawing
33 up the specifications for all crossing gates required under this section.

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35 SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent

1 nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas
2 Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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4 SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
5 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
6 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
7 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
8 act are declared to be severable.

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10 SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
11 hereby repealed.

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13 SECTION 5. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the
14 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the safety of thousands of
15 children who depend on school buses for transportation to and from school
16 will be dramatically improved by the addition of an electric crossing gate on
17 the front of buses and that such addition will provide greater visibility to
18 bus drivers when students are loading or being discharged from buses; that
19 the effectiveness of this act on July 1, 1995, is essential to the fiscal
20 operations of local school districts. Therefore, an emergency is hereby
21 declared to exist and this act being necessary for the immediate preservation
22 of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from
23 and after July 1, 1995.

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/s/Rep. Wren

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As Engrossed: 3/10/95

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