

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

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 72

## For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO REQUIRE *LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS* TO DEVELOP A  
SAFE SCHOOL CHECKLIST FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO USE *IN*  
ASSESSING SCHOOL SAFETY; TO REQUIRE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS  
TO ISSUE AN ANNUAL SCHOOL SAFETY REPORT; TO DECLARE AN  
EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

## Subtitle

"REQUIRING *LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS* TO  
DEVELOP A SAFE SCHOOL CHECKLIST AND  
LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ISSUE AN  
ANNUAL SCHOOL SAFETY REPORT."

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

SECTION 1. The General Assembly hereby finds that a safe school environment is crucial in providing a quality public education for all students. But with violence, drug and alcohol abuse, school bus accidents, and other safety problems increasing in both urban and rural school districts across Arkansas, the confidence of the public that local school districts are able to properly provide safety and security for all children is being undermined. It is therefore declared to be the public policy of the State of Arkansas that public schools shall be safe places for the children of Arkansas and that efforts of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government will be directed toward the fulfillment of this policy.

SECTION 2. (a) No later than August 1, 1995, each local school district shall develop a safe school checklist to address school safety and

1 *begin integrating that checklist into existing school improvement plans.*

2 (b) A safe school checklist shall include but not be limited to  
3 procedures for:

4 (1) Assessing buildings, grounds, and transportation;

5 (2) Implementing a comprehensive safety plan;

6 (3) Training staff and students;

7 (4) Securing school grounds and buildings against unauthorized  
8 visitors;

9 (5) Communicating discipline and emergency policies to staff,  
10 students, and the public; and

11 (6) Communicating with law enforcement authorities and emergency  
12 personnel.

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14 SECTION 3. No later than December 31 of each year, each local school  
15 district shall make public a report of safety strengths and weaknesses in  
16 district buildings, grounds, and transportation and shall file a copy of the  
17 report with the Department of Education.

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19 SECTION 4. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent  
20 nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas  
21 Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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23 SECTION 5. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to  
24 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect  
25 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without  
26 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
27 act are declared to be severable.

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29 SECTION 6. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are  
30 hereby repealed.

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32 SECTION 7. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the  
33 General Assembly that a safe school environment is crucial in providing a  
34 quality public education for all students; that in recent months incidents  
35 involving student safety have increased at an alarming rate; that many school

1 districts are frustrated with their inability to properly secure student  
2 safety; that unless appropriate steps are taken immediately, the safety of  
3 many children in Arkansas public schools is at risk. Therefore, an emergency  
4 is hereby declared to exist and this Act being necessary for the immediate  
5 preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force  
6 and effect from and after its passage and approval.

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*/s/Walker*

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