

Stricken language would be deleted from present law. Underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 81st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 1997

As Engrossed: S3/20/97 H4/1/97

## A Bill

SENATE BILL 437

4  
5 By: Senator Hopkins  
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### For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 "AN ACT TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ADOPT POLICIES  
10 CONCERNING THE RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES TO SEEK AND HOLD  
11 ELECTIVE OR APPOINTIVE OFFICE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."  
12

### Subtitle

13  
14 "AN ACT TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO  
15 ADOPT POLICIES CONCERNING THE RIGHTS OF  
16 EMPLOYEES TO SEEK AND HOLD ELECTIVE OR  
17 APPOINTIVE OFFICE."  
18

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. It is the policy of this state to encourage public school  
22 employees to participate in government and to reduce barriers to their seeking  
23 or holding an elective or appointive office. Therefore it is the purpose of  
24 this act to provide public school employees clear information concerning the  
25 policies of the school affecting the rights of employees to seek or hold  
26 elective or appointive office.  
27

28 SECTION 2. Each public school district shall adopt a policy concerning  
29 the right of employees of the district to seek and hold an elective or an  
30 appointive office. The policy shall state the consequences, if any, for  
31 seeking or holding an elective or appointive office.  
32

33 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Annotated § 6-19-117 is amended to read as  
34 follows:

35 "6-19-117. School bus safety equipment.

36 (a) As used in this section, 'school bus' means every motor vehicle

1 owned by a public school district or a private school or a governmental agency  
2 and operated for the transportation of children to or from school or school-  
3 sponsored activities.

4 (b) Any new school bus whose function involves the loading or discharge  
5 of school children as passengers shall be equipped with a flashing white  
6 strobe light in order to provide greater visibility to drivers in approaching  
7 vehicles. Such strobe light shall be in addition to those flasher lights  
8 required under § 27-51-1002.

9 (c) Any new school bus whose function involves the loading or discharge  
10 of school children as passengers on a regular route shall be equipped with an  
11 electric, air, or hydraulic-operated crossing gate in order to prevent school  
12 children from crossing in front of the bus in such a way that the bus driver  
13 is unlikely to see them.

14 (d) On and after July 1, 1997, all other school buses shall be  
15 retrofitted with a flashing white strobe light and an electric, air, or  
16 hydraulic-operated crossing gate for purposes as described in this section.

17 (e) By no later than July 1 of each year, the superintendent of each  
18 local school district shall certify to the Department of Education that the  
19 district is in compliance with the provisions of this section.

20 ~~-----~~(f) The Director of General Education of the Department of Education  
21 shall cause to be publicized the first week of each school year as School Bus  
22 Safety Week."

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

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28 SECTION 5. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to  
29 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect  
30 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without  
31 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
32 act are declared to be severable.

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

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/s/Hopkins