

1 State of Arkansas  
2 82nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 1999

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1952

4  
5 By: Representative Hunt  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 "AN ACT TO REQUIRE ALL OPERATORS OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO  
10 STOP WHEN A PARATRANSIT BUS IS LOADING OR UNLOADING  
11 PASSENGERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

## Subtitle

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14 "AN ACT TO REQUIRE ALL OPERATORS OF MOTOR  
15 VEHICLES TO STOP WHEN A PARATRANSIT BUS  
16 IS LOADING OR UNLOADING PASSENGERS. "  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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### SECTION 1. Definition.

21 As used in this act, "paratransit bus" means any bus or van which:

22 (1) Is used to transport people with physical disabilities;

23 (2) Has a sign on the front and rear of the bus or van with the words  
24 "PARATRANSIT" or "PARATRANSIT BUS" written in letters of not less than eight  
25 inches (8") in height; and

26 (3) Is equipped with flasher lights to indicate that the bus or van is  
27 receiving or discharging its passengers.  
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30 SECTION 2. (a) Any person who violates any of the provisions of this  
31 act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

32 (b) A violator shall be fined not less than thirty-five dollars  
33 (\$35.00) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500) or imprisoned not more than  
34 ninety (90) days, or both.  
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36 SECTION 3. (a) The driver of a paratransit bus shall stop the bus in

1 the right-hand traffic lane at loading points where passengers cross the  
 2 highway in the process of loading or unloading and at loading points where the  
 3 shoulder of the road is so narrow that pulling to the shoulder is unsafe or  
 4 impractical.

5 (b) At loading points where no passengers cross the highway in the  
 6 process of loading or unloading and where there is a sufficient and safe area  
 7 at the right to remove the bus completely from the highway, then the bus  
 8 driver shall remove the bus from the highway for loading or unloading.

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 10 SECTION 4. (a) When any paratransit bus stops and indicates by flasher  
 11 lights that the bus is loading or unloading passengers, every operator of a  
 12 motor vehicle or motorcycle approaching it from any direction shall bring the  
 13 motor vehicle or motorcycle to a full stop and shall not start up or attempt  
 14 to pass in any direction until the bus has finished receiving or discharging  
 15 its passengers.

16 (b) If the bus is operated on multiple lane highways divided by a  
 17 parkway or dividing strip of twenty feet (20') or more in width, and if the  
 18 bus is on the opposite side of the parkway or dividing strip, then the driver  
 19 of the approaching vehicle need not stop but shall proceed with due caution  
 20 for the safety of the passengers of the bus.

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 22 SECTION 5. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature  
 23 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code  
 24 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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 26 SECTION 6. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to  
 27 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect  
 28 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without  
 29 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
 30 act are declared to be severable.

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 32 SECTION 7. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are  
 33 hereby repealed.

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