

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2484

5 By: Representative Cook
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE DEFINITION OF "SCHOOL BUS"
10 AS USED IN THE ARKANSAS CODE; AND FOR OTHER
11 PURPOSES.
12

Subtitle

13 TO CLARIFY THE DEFINITION OF "SCHOOL
14 BUS".
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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20 SECTION 1 Arkansas Code § 6-19-110 is amended to read as follows:

21 6-19-110. Bus drivers – Loading and discharging pupils.

22 (a) The driver of a school bus shall load and discharge the passengers
23 of the bus at the extreme right side of the paved or improved portion of the
24 road or highway and at the right curbing when such curbing is maintained on
25 the road or highway.

26 (b) As used in this section:

27 (1) "Motor vehicle" means all vehicles, movable engines, or
28 machines that are operated or propelled by motor vehicle fuel and ~~which~~ that
29 are operated and used for travel on public roads and highways; and

30 (2) "School bus" means: ~~any vehicle being used to convey~~
31 ~~children to and from school and which is marked in both front and rear with~~
32 ~~the words "SCHOOL BUS", in plain lettering, readable in daylight at a~~
33 ~~distance of at least two hundred feet (200') from such a vehicle~~

34 (A) A motor vehicle designed to carry more than ten (10)
35 passengers owned by a public or governmental agency and operated for the
36 transportation of students to or from school or school-sponsored activities;



1 or

2 (B) A motor vehicle designed to carry more than ten (10)
3 passengers privately owned and operated for compensation for the
4 transportation of students to or from school or school-sponsored activities.

5 (c) The ~~driver of a school bus~~ driver who observes an operator of a
6 motor vehicle violating § 27-51-1004 or § 27-51-1005 shall:

7 (1) Prepare a written report of the violation on the appropriate
8 form provided by the school district; and

9 (2) Within forty-eight (48) hours of the observation deliver the
10 completed form to the superintendent of the school district or his or her
11 designee, who shall promptly provide the report to a local prosecuting
12 attorney.

13 (d) A school bus driver who fails to carry out the provisions of
14 subsection (a) of this section ~~shall be~~ is guilty of a Class C misdemeanor.

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16 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-19-117 is amended to read as follows:

17 6-19-117. School bus safety equipment.

18 (a) As used in this section, "school bus" means: ~~every motor vehicle~~
19 ~~owned by a public school district or a private school or a governmental~~
20 ~~agency and operated for the transportation of children to or from school or~~
21 ~~school-sponsored activities~~

22 (1) A motor vehicle designed to carry more than ten (10)
23 passengers owned by a public or governmental agency and operated for the
24 transportation of students to or from school or school-sponsored activities;
25 or

26 (2) A motor vehicle designed to carry more than ten (10)
27 passengers privately owned and operated for compensation for the
28 transportation of students to or from school or school-sponsored activities.

29 (b)(1) Any new school bus whose function involves the loading or
30 discharging of ~~school children~~ students as passengers shall be equipped with
31 a flashing white strobe light in order to provide greater visibility to
32 drivers in approaching vehicles.

33 (2) The strobe light shall be in addition to those flasher
34 lights required under § 27-51-1002.

35 (c) Any new school bus whose function involves the loading or
36 discharging of ~~school children~~ students as passengers on a regular route

1 shall be equipped with an electric, air, or hydraulic-operated crossing gate
 2 in order to prevent ~~school children~~ a student from crossing in front of the
 3 bus in such a way that the school bus driver is unlikely to see them.

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

7 (e) ~~By no~~ No later than July 1 of each year, the superintendent of
 8 each local school district shall certify to the Division of Public School
 9 Academic Facilities and Transportation that the district is in compliance
 10 with the provisions of this section.

11 (f) The Director of the Division of Public School Academic Facilities
 12 and Transportation shall cause to be publicized the ~~first week of each school~~
 13 ~~year~~ third week of October as School Bus Safety Week.

14
 15 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-19-119 is amended to read as follows:
 16 6-19-119. School bus passengers required to be seated.

17 (a) As used in this section, "school bus" means: ~~any vehicle being~~
 18 ~~used to convey children to and from school that is marked in both front and~~
 19 ~~rear with the words "SCHOOL BUS" in plain lettering readable in daylight at a~~
 20 ~~distance of at least two hundred feet (200') from the vehicle~~

21 (1) A motor vehicle designed to carry more than ten (10)
 22 passengers owned by a public or governmental agency and operated for the
 23 transportation of students to or from school or school-sponsored activities;
 24 or

25 (2) A motor vehicle designed to carry more than ten (10)
 26 passengers privately owned and operated for compensation for the
 27 transportation of students to or from school or school-sponsored activities.

28 (b) ~~The driver of a~~ A school bus driver shall not operate the school
 29 bus until every passenger is seated.

30 (c)(1) The superintendent of each public school in this state ~~shall be~~
 31 is responsible for ensuring that no school bus is scheduled to transport more
 32 students than can be reasonably seated in the school bus.

33 (2) Any superintendent who knowingly violates subdivision (c)(1)
 34 of this section shall be guilty of a violation and upon conviction shall be
 35 fined not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) nor more than one hundred dollars
 36 (\$100).

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SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-19-122 is amended to read as follows:

6-19-122. Safe transportation of school children on buses and other vehicles.

The Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation or its successor shall undertake measures to provide for the safe, reliable, and efficient transportation of school children, including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) Develop and implement:

(A) A comprehensive maintenance management program for all preventive and other repair or replacement maintenance activities performed, including operating and maintenance documentation, on all public school buses; and

~~(B) Reasonable life cycle replacement policies to introduce the latest safety, efficiency, and emissions improvements into each school district's school bus fleet~~ Standards for permanently removing school buses from service; and

(2) Ensure that the uniform comprehensive maintenance management program is adopted and followed by all school districts.

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 27-49-219(e), concerning definitions of various types of motor vehicles, is amended to read as follows:

(e) "School bus" means: ~~every motor vehicle owned by a public or governmental agency and operated for the transportation of children to or from school or privately owned and operated for compensation for the transportation of children to or from school~~

(1) A motor vehicle designed to carry more than ten (10) passengers owned by a public or governmental agency and operated for the transportation of students to or from school or school-sponsored activities;
or

(2) A motor vehicle designed to carry more than ten (10) passengers privately owned and operated for compensation for the transportation of students to or from school or school-sponsored activities.