

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 87th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2009

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 500

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

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE SCHOOL BUS SAFETY EQUIPMENT  
10 GRANT PILOT PROGRAM TO ASSIST SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN  
11 EQUIPPING SCHOOL BUSES WITH VIDEO RECORDING  
12 DEVICES OR OTHER ELECTRONIC WARNING DEVICES TO  
13 REDUCE THE INCIDENTS OF DRIVERS WHO ILLEGALLY  
14 PASS A SCHOOL BUS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

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16 TO ASSIST SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN EQUIPPING  
17 SCHOOL BUSES WITH ELECTRONIC DEVICES  
18 THAT IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN ON  
19 SCHOOL BUSES BY REDUCING THE INCIDENTS  
20 OF DRIVERS WHO ILLEGALLY PASS SCHOOL  
21 BUSES.  
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 19, Subchapter 1 is amended  
28 to add an additional section to read as follows:

29 6-19-124. Safety equipment grant pilot program.

30 (a) As used in this section:

31 (1) "Electronic warning device" means a nine inch by twenty-four  
32 inch (9" x 24") electronic driver alert sign that uses a light-emitting diode  
33 (LED) screen and is to be mounted between the two (2) windows of the rear  
34 emergency exit door on a Type C bus or immediately below the rear emergency  
35 exit window on a Type D bus;

36 (2) "High incident route" means a school bus route that has been



1 identified by the school district or the Division of Public School Academic  
 2 Facilities and Transportation as having a history of repeated and verified  
 3 incidents of operators of motor vehicles illegally passing the school bus  
 4 during the loading or unloading of passengers on the school bus route in  
 5 violation of § 27-51-1004; and

6 (3)(A) “Video recording device” means a device that includes at  
 7 least one (1) video camera and a data recording device that is installed on a  
 8 school bus to capture video or digital images of a violation of § 27-51-1004.

9 (B) A video recording device that is issued under this  
 10 section shall have specifications and features that allow it to capture video  
 11 or digital images of at least two (2) of the following:

- 12 (i) The motor vehicle;
- 13 (ii) The operator of the motor vehicle; or
- 14 (iii) The license plate on the motor vehicle.

15 (b) The Division of Public School Academic Facilities and  
 16 Transportation shall create a school bus safety equipment grant pilot  
 17 program, subject to the appropriation and availability of funding.

18 (c) The goal of the school bus safety equipment grant pilot program is  
 19 to provide school districts with video recording devices or other electronic  
 20 warning devices for school buses that travel on high incident routes.

21 (d)(1) A school district may apply to the Division of Public School  
 22 Academic Facilities and Transportation for a grant for a video recording  
 23 device or electronic warning device for the installation and use on the  
 24 school district’s school buses.

25 (2) The Division of Public School Academic Facilities and  
 26 Transportation shall award a grant of equipment to a school district to  
 27 improve the safety of school bus transportation to the school district  
 28 applicants that are most in need as determined by the following factors:

- 29 (A) The number of high incident routes;
- 30 (B) The number of school bus routes;
- 31 (C) The type of roads;
- 32 (D) The number of students transported on school buses;

33 and

- 34 (E) The size of the school district.

35 (e) The grant of equipment shall be the video recording device or  
 36 electronic warning device purchased by the division and does not include

1 installation costs.

2 (f) The school district shall certify to the division within forty-  
3 five (45) days after receiving the equipment that the equipment was installed  
4 according to the division's specifications on a school bus that travels on a  
5 high incident route.

6 (g) The Division of Public School Academic Facilities and  
7 Transportation may promulgate rules for the implementation and administration  
8 of this section.

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