

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
4

As Engrossed: S3/17/09

A Bill

SENATE BILL 500

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; TO CLARIFY THE USE OF A NOTICE*
15 *OR WARNING DEVICE ON A SCHOOL BUS; AND FOR OTHER*
16 *PURPOSES.*

Subtitle

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19 *TO ASSIST SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN EQUIPPING*
20 *SCHOOL BUSES WITH ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND*
21 *NOTICES DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE SAFTEY*
22 *OF CHILDREN ON SCHOOL BUSES.*
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26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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28 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 19, Subchapter 1 is amended
29 to add an additional section to read as follows:

30 6-19-124. Safety equipment grant pilot program.

31 (a) As used in this section:

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



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

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

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

13 (i) The motor vehicle;

14 (ii) The operator of the motor vehicle; or

15 (iii) The license plate on the motor vehicle.

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

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

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

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

30 (A) The number of high incident routes;

31 (B) The number of school bus routes;

32 (C) The type of roads;

33 (D) The number of students transported on school buses;

34 and

35 (E) The size of the school district.

36 (e) The grant of equipment shall be the video recording device or

1 electronic warning device purchased by the division and does not include
2 installation costs.

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

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

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11 *Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 19, Subchapter 1 is amended to add an*
12 *additional section to read as follows:*

13 6-19-125. Notice on school buses.

14 (a) If a school bus is not equipped with an electronic warning device
15 as defined under § 6-19-124, a school district may have printed or otherwise
16 displayed on the exterior of a school bus between the two (2) windows of the
17 rear emergency exit door on a Type C bus or immediately below the rear
18 emergency exit window on a Type D bus the following notification:
19 “IT IS A VIOLATION OF ARKANSAS LAW TO PASS A SCHOOL BUS FROM ANY DIRECTION
20 WHEN IT IS STOPPED TO LOAD OR UNLOAD A CHILD”.

21 (b) A school bus that is purchased on or after January 1, 2011, shall
22 be equipped with either:

23 (1) A notice printed or otherwise displayed as provided under
24 subsection (a) of this section; or

25 (2) An electronic warning device as defined under § 6-19-124.

26
27 /s/ Hendren
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