

1 State of Arkansas  
2 88th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2011

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1810

4  
5 By: Representatives D. Hutchinson, Moore

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH SAFETY STANDARDS FOR ANCHORING  
9 SOCCER GOALS ON PLAYGROUNDS AND OTHER RECREATION  
10 AREAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

14 JONATHAN'S LAW: TO ESTABLISH SAFETY  
15 STANDARDS FOR ANCHORING SOCCER GOALS ON  
16 PLAYGROUNDS AND OTHER RECREATION AREAS.

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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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21 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. The General Assembly finds that:

22 (1) On January 26, 2011, a tragic incident occurred when  
23 Jonathan Brian Nelson, who was nine (9) years of age, died of injuries  
24 sustained when an unanchored soccer goal fell on his head at Elm Tree  
25 Elementary School in Bentonville;

26 (2) There are approximately five hundred thousand (500,000)  
27 soccer goals in the United States, and many of these soccer goals are unsafe  
28 because they are improperly designed, manufactured, or installed;

29 (3) Problems arise with instability of movable soccer goals when  
30 they are unanchored, not properly anchored, or not properly counterbalanced;

31 (4) Unstable soccer goals pose an unnecessary risk of tip-over  
32 to children who climb on the goals or nets or hang from the crossbar and can  
33 cause catastrophic injury to persons around the soccer goal;

34 (5) There were at least nine (9) children under the age of  
35 sixteen (16) killed in accidents involving movable soccer goals between 1998  
36 and mid-2010 and two thousand (2,000) serious injuries during this same



1 period, according to the United States Consumer Products Safety Commission;

2 (6) According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, a large  
3 majority of the goals involved in fatal or serious tip-over accidents were  
4 homemade, not made by the soccer industry that has expertise in the proper  
5 anchoring techniques and safe counterbalancing goal designs;

6 (7) While the short-term solution is to anchor all moveable  
7 soccer goals, the long-term solution is to promote soccer goals that maximize  
8 safety such as the new stable soccer goal design promulgated by the ASTM  
9 International Standard Safety Specification for Special Tip-Resistant  
10 Moveable Soccer Goals, F2673-08; and

11 (8) This act is necessary to ensure the safety of children  
12 around soccer goals at schools and other recreational areas in the state.

13  
14 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 21, Subchapter 5 is amended  
15 to add an additional section to read as follows:

16 6-21-506. Soccer goal safety.

17 (a) If a school district has any playgrounds or recreational areas for  
18 children on a school campus that includes a soccer goal, the soccer goal  
19 shall:

20 (1) Be anchored as provided under this section;

21 (2) Be manufactured by an entity engaged in the business of  
22 making sports equipment and not homemade; and

23 (3) Contain all of the factory warning notices, and the notices  
24 shall be in good condition.

25 (b) Soccer goals purchased by a school district after July 1, 2012,  
26 shall be in compliance with the ASTM International Standard Safety  
27 Specification for Special Tip-Resistant Moveable Soccer Goals, F2673-08, as  
28 in effect on January 1, 2011, if soccer goals that meet these specifications  
29 are available for purchase at that time.

30 (c) A movable soccer goal shall be:

31 (1) Anchored according to the Guidelines for Movable Soccer Goal  
32 Safety promulgated by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission,  
33 as in effect on January 1, 2011; and

34 (2) Placed only on level or flat areas.

35 (d) A permanent soccer goal shall be anchored in cement according to  
36 industry standards or manufacturer's recommendations.

1       (e)(1) The superintendent of each school district shall file a written  
2 statement with the Department as evidence that the school district for which  
3 the superintendent is responsible has complied with this section.

4               (2) The written statement under this subsection may be included  
5 in the written statement filed under § 6-15-202(f).

6       (f) The Commission for Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities  
7 and Transportation may promulgate rules for the administration of this  
8 section.

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10       SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 7, Subchapter 1 is amended  
11 to add an additional section to read as follows:

12       20-7-136. Soccer goal safety.

13       (a)(1) As used in this section, "public recreation area" means an area  
14 that is used by members of the public for recreational activities.

15               (2) "Public recreation area" includes a privately owned or  
16 publicly owned park, sports field, or auditorium.

17       (b) If a public recreation area includes a soccer goal, the soccer  
18 goal shall:

19               (1) Be anchored as provided under this section;

20               (2) Be manufactured by an entity engaged in the business of  
21 making sports equipment and not homemade; and

22               (3) Contain all of the factory warning notices, and the notices  
23 shall be in good condition.

24       (c) Soccer goals purchased for use at a public recreation area after  
25 July 1, 2012, shall be in compliance with the ASTM International Standard  
26 Safety Specification for Special Tip-Resistant Moveable Soccer Goals, F2673-  
27 08, as in effect on January 1, 2011, if soccer goals that meet these  
28 specifications are available for purchase at that time.

29       (d) A movable soccer goal at a public recreation area shall be:

30               (1) Anchored according to the Guidelines for Movable Soccer Goal  
31 Safety promulgated by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission as  
32 in effect on January 1, 2011; and

33               (2) Placed only on level or flat areas.

34       (e) A permanent soccer goal at a public recreation area shall be  
35 anchored in cement according to industry standards or manufacturer's  
36 recommendations.

1       (f) The violation of this section is admissible in a civil or criminal  
2 action against the owner or operator of the recreation area if the violation  
3 results in bodily injury to or the death of a person.

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