

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2023  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1511

5 By: Representative R. Scott Richardson  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE CHARLIE'S LAW; TO REQUIRE AN  
9 ELECTRONIC CHILD SAFETY ALARM SYSTEM BE INSTALLED IN  
10 A SCHOOL BUS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

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14 TO CREATE CHARLIE'S LAW; AND TO REQUIRE  
15 AN ELECTRONIC CHILD SAFETY ALARM SYSTEM  
16 BE INSTALLED IN A SCHOOL BUS.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 19, Subchapter 1, is amended  
22 to add an additional section to read as follows:

23 6-19-132. Charlie's Law.

24 (a) This section shall be known and may be cited as "Charlie's Law".

25 (b)(1) Beginning January 1, 2024, each new or used school bus acquired  
26 by a school shall have an electronic child safety alarm system installed.

27 (2) By January 1, 2029, every school bus owned or operated by a  
28 school shall have an electronic child safety alarm system installed.

29 (c) The electronic child safety alarm system required by this section  
30 shall:

31 (1) Be electronic and activated from the point at which the  
32 school bus is turned on;

33 (2)(A) Remain activated, and not be deactivated, until a reset  
34 or deactivate button is pressed at the interior rear of the school bus after  
35 the school bus has been turned off.

36 (B) The reset or deactivation button required under



1 subdivision (c)(2)(A) of this section shall require the school bus driver to  
2 manually contact the reset or deactivation button, which shall prompt the  
3 school bus driver to inspect the entirety of the interior of the school bus  
4 before the school bus driver is able to exit the school bus; and

5 (3)(A) Provide an audio alarm if the electronic child safety  
6 alarm is not reset or deactivated within ten (10) minutes from the point at  
7 which the school bus has been turned off.

8 (B) The audio alarm required under subdivision (c)(3)(A)  
9 of this section shall be of significant enough volume as to alert an  
10 individual outside of the school bus.

11 (d) As used in this section, "school" shall include:

12 (1) A public school or public school district; or

13 (2) An open-enrollment public charter school.

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