

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

A Bill

SENATE BILL 355

5 By: Senators Caldwell, J. Petty, J. Bryant
6 By: Representatives Holcomb, J. Moore, Puryear, J. Mayberry
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO
10 STORM SHELTERS FOR EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES UNDER THE
11 ARKANSAS FIRE PREVENTION CODE; AND FOR OTHER
12 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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16 TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS
17 RELATED TO STORM SHELTERS FOR EDUCATIONAL
18 FACILITIES UNDER THE ARKANSAS FIRE
19 PREVENTION CODE.
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 12, Chapter 13, Subchapter 1, is
25 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

26 12-13-120. Arkansas Fire Prevention Code.

27 (a) Before January 1, 2025, the Arkansas Fire Prevention Code shall
28 not require an educational facility, also known as a Group E occupancy, to
29 have a storm shelter.

30 (b) Beginning January 1, 2025, the Arkansas Fire Prevention Code
31 shall:

32 (1) Identify the educational facilities, also known as Group E
33 occupancies, that are required to have a storm shelter; and

34 (2) Require that the occupant capacity of a storm shelter for a
35 Group E occupancy be determined by:

36 (A) The total occupant load of the classrooms, vocational



1 rooms, and offices in the Group E occupancy; and

2 (B) For critical emergency operations, the occupant load
3 of the building in which the storm shelter is located.

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5 SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. Storm shelters for
6 educational facilities before January 1, 2025.

7 If an educational facility, also known as a Group E occupancy, begins
8 construction for a storm shelter after the effective date of this act, the
9 storm shelter shall comply with the standards stated in Arkansas Code § 12-
10 13-120(b)(2).