

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

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 59

5 By: Senator L. Chesterfield  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF PHYSICAL FORCE; TO AMEND  
9 THE LAW WITH RESPECT TO CIRCUMSTANCES THAT JUSTIFY  
10 THE USE OF PHYSICAL FORCE UPON ANOTHER PERSON; AND  
11 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

14 TO AMEND THE LAW WITH RESPECT TO  
15 CIRCUMSTANCES THAT JUSTIFY THE USE OF  
16 PHYSICAL FORCE UPON ANOTHER PERSON.  
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 5-2-601, concerning definitions with regard  
23 to justifications for the use of physical force upon another person, is  
24 amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

25 (10) "School employee" includes without limitation a person  
26 employed by a school under a written contract, including without limitation

27 a:

28 (A) Classified school employee; and

29 (B) Licensed school employee.  
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31 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 5-2-605(1), concerning the use of physical  
32 force upon another person that is considered justifiable, is amended to read  
33 as follows:

34 (1) A parent, ~~teacher~~ school employee, guardian, or other person  
35 entrusted with care and supervision of a minor or an incompetent person may  
36 use reasonable and appropriate physical force upon the minor or incompetent



1 person when and to the extent reasonably necessary to maintain discipline or  
2 to promote the welfare of the minor or incompetent person if the parent,  
3 school employee, guardian, or other person entrusted with care and  
4 supervision of the minor or the incompetent person is authorized by § 5-2-606  
5 to use physical force on the minor or incompetent person;

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