

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

A Bill

SENATE BILL 12

By: Senator Irvin

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT LEVEL 3 OR LEVEL 4 SEX OFFENDERS
FROM BEING AT A SWIMMING AREA OR CHILDREN'S
PLAYGROUND CONTAINED WITHIN AN ARKANSAS STATE PARK;
TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO PROHIBIT LEVEL 3 OR LEVEL 4 SEX
OFFENDERS FROM BEING AT A SWIMMING AREA
OR CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND CONTAINED WITHIN
AN ARKANSAS STATE PARK; AND TO DECLARE AN
EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 5, Chapter 14, Subchapter 1, is amended to add a new section to read as follows:

5-14-134. Registered offender prohibited from entering a swimming area or children's playground contained within an Arkansas State Park.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Arkansas State Park" means a state park classified or reclassified as an official state park under § 22-4-201(1) or § 22-4-202;

(2) "Children's playground" means a place with a specific design for children to be able to play there, whether indoor or outdoor; and

(3) "Swimming area" means a place with a specific design for people to swim, including without limitation a beach, a swimming pool, and a water park.

(b) It is unlawful for a person who is required to register under the



Sex Offender Registration Act of 1997, § 12-12-901 et seq., and who has been assessed as a Level 3 or Level 4 offender to knowingly enter a swimming area or children's playground contained within an Arkansas State Park.

(c) A violation of this section is a Class D felony.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that high-level sex offenders often target young children as victims; that during the summer months, state parks are popular destinations for families with young children, especially those with a swimming area or a playground; and that this act is immediately necessary in order for it to be effective before the late spring and summer of this year when children will begin to go to state parks. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

APPROVED: 02/06/2013