

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1103

By: Representative Evans

By: Senator L. Eads

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMIC FACILITIES
AND TRANSPORTATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL
ACADEMIC FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-19-106 is amended to read as follows:

6-19-106. Bus drivers – Qualifications.

A person who has been convicted within the past three (3) years of operating a motor vehicle in a reckless manner or while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs or who is ~~less than~~ under nineteen (19) years of age on June 30 following his or her last birthday shall not be permitted or employed to operate ~~any~~ a school bus, either privately or publicly owned, operated by public school districts and used to transport pupils to and from the public schools in the State of Arkansas.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-19-108(b)-(e), concerning the certification of bus drivers, are amended to read as follows:

(b)~~(1)~~ Upon successful completion and documentation of ~~training listed~~ the training described in subdivision (a)(2)(C) of this section, a ~~certificate, valid for one (1) year, shall be issued by the division~~ the



Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation shall certify the applicant as a school bus driver for a one-year period.

(2) Certification as a school bus driver by the Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation may be renewed annually.

(c)(1) A school bus driver shall not be employed as an operator of a school bus to transport children to and from school or school-sponsored activities unless he or she is certified as a school bus driver by the division and has satisfactorily completed the in-service training required in subsection (d) of this section ~~and possesses a current valid certificate therefor.~~

~~(2) The certificate~~ Certification as a bus driver by the Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation shall be required in addition to a commercial driver's license and any additional qualifications required by the school district board of directors.

(d) A school bus driver who seeks ~~a~~ annual renewal of his or her bus driver ~~certificate~~ certification shall provide proof that he or she has satisfactorily:

(1) Passed a physical examination given by a licensed physician or advanced practice nurse within the previous two (2) years; and

(2) Completed in-service training for school bus drivers as prescribed by the ~~division~~ Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation.

(e) A school district board of directors may provide a substitute driver to operate a school bus on a temporary basis without ~~a certificate~~ certification until the next regularly scheduled school bus driver's examination is held in the locality if:

(1) A ~~qualified~~ certified school bus driver is not available to operate ~~a~~ the school bus due to death, resignation, disability, illness, or other cause; and

(2) The school district board of directors is not able to obtain a ~~qualified~~ certified school bus driver ~~with a certificate.~~

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2507(b)(2)(B), concerning a school district's application to participate in the Academic Facilities Partnership Program and life cycle data, is amended to read as follows:

(B) The Division of Public School Academic Facilities and

Transportation shall require ~~independent proof of the failure of the equipment~~ proof of the need to replace the equipment or other item.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2507(c)(1)(G), concerning a school district's application to participate in the Academic Facilities Partnership Program and life cycle data, is amended to read as follows:

(G) Regularly scheduled and unscheduled maintenance, repair, and renovation as documented in the Computerized Maintenance Management System;

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2507(c)(2)(G), concerning the Academic Facilities Partnership Program and life cycle data, is amended to read as follows:

(G) Regularly scheduled and unscheduled maintenance, repair, and renovation as documented in the Computerized Maintenance Management System;

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-21-806(c), concerning schools districts that participate in the Academic Facilities Master Plan Program and the preliminary facilities master plan, is amended to read as follows:

~~(c)(1) The division shall establish procedures and timelines for a school district to submit a preliminary facilities master plan or a master plan outline to the division before the submission of the school district's final facilities master plan.~~

~~(2) The preliminary facilities master plan or master plan outline shall form the basis for a A consultation meeting between representatives of the school district and members of the division to discuss the development of the school district's facilities master plan shall be held upon request of the school district.~~

~~(3) As soon as practicable after submission of the preliminary facilities master plan or master plan outline, the division shall hold the consultation meeting with the school district to:~~

~~(A) Assure understanding of the general goals of this subchapter and the criteria by which projects will be evaluated;~~

~~(B) Discuss ways the facilities master plan may be structured to meet the goals of this subchapter;~~

~~(C) Assist school districts to prepare accurate budgets and reasonable project schedules; and~~

~~(D) Provide for efficiency and productivity in the approval process for local academic facilities projects and state financial participation in local projects.~~

SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 6-21-816(e)(1) and (2), concerning the sale or lease of public school facilities and petitions submitted to the Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation for a waiver, are amended to read as follows:

(e)(1)~~(A)~~ If the division receives a petition under subsection (d) of this section, the division, within five (5) days after receiving the petition, shall notify each eligible entity granted a charter under the Arkansas Quality Charter Schools Act of 2013, § 6-23-101 et seq., and each statewide organization representing charter schools in ~~Arkansas by certified mail~~ this state of the petition ~~by:-~~

(A) Posting the petition on the division's website; and

~~(B) The notice under subdivision (e)(1)(A) of this section shall include a copy of the petition~~ Sending a copy of the petition to each eligible entity and statewide organization representing charter schools by email.

(2) Not later than thirty (30) days after the division provides the notification required under subdivision (e)(1) of this section ~~an eligible entity granted a charter under the Arkansas Quality Charter Schools Act of 2013, § 6-23-101 et seq., or statewide organization representing charter schools in Arkansas receives a notice described in subdivision (e)(1)(A) of this section,~~ the an eligible entity or a statewide organization representing charter schools may submit to the division an objection in writing to the petition.

APPROVED: 2/10/21