

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 165 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: S1/31/23 S2/1/23 H2/20/23*
94th General Assembly **A Bill**
Regular Session, 2023

SENATE BILL 59

By: Senator L. Chesterfield

By: Representatives J. Richardson, Achor

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW WITH RESPECT TO
CIRCUMSTANCES THAT JUSTIFY THE USE OF
PHYSICAL FORCE UPON ANOTHER PERSON.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 5-2-601, concerning definitions with regard to justifications for the use of physical force upon another person, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(10) "School employee" includes a person employed by a school under a written contract, which shall include a:

(A) Classified school employee; and

(B) Licensed school employee.

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

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



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

/s/L. Chesterfield

APPROVED: 2/27/23