

State of Arkansas  
94th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2023

As Engrossed: S4/6/23

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 355

By: Senators Caldwell, J. Petty, J. Bryant

By: Representatives Holcomb, J. Moore, Puryear, J. Mayberry

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO  
STORM SHELTERS FOR EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES UNDER THE  
ARKANSAS FIRE PREVENTION CODE; AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS  
RELATED TO STORM SHELTERS FOR EDUCATIONAL  
FACILITIES UNDER THE ARKANSAS FIRE  
PREVENTION CODE.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 12, Chapter 13, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

12-13-120. Arkansas Fire Prevention Code.

(a) Before January 1, 2025, the Arkansas Fire Prevention Code shall not require an educational facility, also known as a Group E occupancy, to have a storm shelter that has an occupant capacity that exceeds the total occupant load of the classrooms, vocational rooms, and offices.

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

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

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



(A) The total occupant load of the classrooms, vocational rooms, and offices in the Group E occupancy; and

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

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

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

*/s/Caldwell*

**APPROVED: 4/12/23**