

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

A Bill

SENATE BILL 554

By: Senator J. English

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE FIRE PREVENTION ACT; TO AMEND THE LAWS RELATING TO FIRE DRILLS AND EXTERIOR DOORS AT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE FIRE PREVENTION ACT; AND TO AMEND THE LAW RELATING TO FIRE DRILLS AND EXTERIOR DOORS AT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 21, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-21-120. Exterior school doors to be closed and locked.

All public and private schools and all educational institutions shall keep all exterior doors closed and locked during school hours with the exception of transition times.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 12-13-109 is amended to read as follows:

12-13-109. Fire drills ~~– Exterior Doors – Egress.~~

(a) It shall be the duty of the Director of the Division of Arkansas State Police, his or her officers, and deputies to require teachers of public and private schools and all educational institutions to have one (1) fire drill each month ~~and to keep all doors and exits unlocked during school~~



hours.

(b) A person shall not be impeded from building egress in compliance with the Arkansas Fire Prevention Code and the standards for accessible design under the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq., as it existed on January 1, 2023.

APPROVED: 4/12/23