

State of Arkansas  
94th General Assembly  
First Extraordinary Session, 2023

# A Bill

Call Item 5  
SENATE BILL 4

By: Senators J. English, Crowell, J. Dotson, Gilmore, Hester, Hill  
By: Representatives Evans, McAlindon

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CLARIFY ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING THE LOCKING  
OF SCHOOL DOORS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO CLARIFY ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING THE  
LOCKING OF SCHOOL DOORS; AND TO DECLARE  
AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-22-1011(a), concerning fire drills, is amended to remove language that is inconsistent with Arkansas Code § 6-21-121 requiring exterior school doors to be closed and locked:

(a) It shall be the duty of the State Fire Marshal, or his or her designee, 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.~~

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that Arkansas law is currently inconsistent and unclear regarding the duty to keep exterior school doors closed and locked; that keeping exterior school doors closed and locked impacts the public peace, health, and safety by keeping schools safe from unwanted entry and protecting the safety and welfare of students and teachers; and that this act is immediately necessary to ensure that school



buildings offer the intended protections for the students and teachers of the state. 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: 9/14/23**