

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: H2/5/25 S2/11/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1215

By: Representative Bentley

By: Senator J. Bryant

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE A COACH OR ATHLETICS PERSONNEL MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITE SEX TO ADDRESS, SUPERVISE, OR TREAT STUDENT ATHLETES IN A MULTIPLE OCCUPANCY RESTROOM OR CHANGING AREA UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AUTHORIZE A COACH OR ATHLETICS PERSONNEL MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITE SEX TO ADDRESS, SUPERVISE, OR TREAT STUDENT ATHLETES IN A MULTIPLE OCCUPANCY RESTROOM OR CHANGING AREA UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-21-120(a), concerning definitions regarding public school restroom and changing area designation requirements, is amended to read as follows:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Athletic event" means an organized athletic activity that is sponsored by or associated with a public school district or an open-enrollment public charter school and in which participants are:

(A) Engaged in an athletic game or competition against another team, club, or entity; or

(B) In practice or preparation for an organized athletic game or competition against another team, club, or entity;



(2) "Athletics personnel" means athletic directors and other individuals actively involved in organizing, training, or coaching athletic events for student athletes;

~~(1)(A)(3)(A)~~ "Multiple occupancy restroom or changing area" means an area in a public school district or open-enrollment public charter school building that is designed or designated to be used by one (1) or more individuals at the same time and in which one (1) or more individuals may be in various stages of undress in the presence of other individuals.

(B) "Multiple occupancy restroom or changing area" includes without limitation the following:

- (i) A restroom;
- (ii) A locker room;
- (iii) A changing room; and
- (iv) A shower room; and

~~(2)(A)(4)(A)~~ "Sex" means the physical condition of being male or female based on genetics and physiology.

(B) A public school district or open-enrollment public charter school may rely upon a public school student's sex as identified on his or her original birth certificate issued at or near the time of his or her birth.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-21-120(c), concerning exceptions to the requirement that public school restrooms and changing areas be designated based on sex, is amended to read as follows:

(c) This section does not apply to an individual who enters a multiple occupancy restroom or changing area designated for use by the opposite sex when he or she enters for at least one (1) of the following circumstances:

- (1) For custodial, maintenance, or inspection purposes;
- (2) To render emergency medical assistance; ~~or~~
- (3) To address an ongoing emergency, including without limitation a physical altercation; or

(4) The individual is a coach or other athletics personnel member who enters and is present in the multiple occupancy restroom or changing area to address, supervise, or treat student athletes that the individual is overseeing during a reasonable time before an athletic event, during an athletic event, or immediately following an athletic event if:

(A) The coach or other athletics personnel member verifies that no person is in a state of undress at any time while the coach or other athletics personnel member is present; and

(B) An adult besides the individual who is a coach or other athletics personnel member is present.

/s/Bentley

APPROVED: 2/18/25