

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas  
89th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2013

*As Engrossed: S4/2/13*  
**A Bill**

SENATE BILL 1146

By: Senator J. Hendren

### **For An Act To Be Entitled**

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL  
DISTRICTS TO OBTAIN COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS SCHOOL  
*BUSES*; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### **Subtitle**

*TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL  
DISTRICTS TO OBTAIN COMPRESSED NATURAL  
GAS SCHOOL BUSES.*

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 19, Subchapter 1, concerning transportation for elementary and secondary education, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-19-128. Compressed Natural Gas School Bus Pilot Program.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Compressed natural gas" means a fossil fuel substitute for gasoline, diesel fuel, propane, or liquid propane gas that is:

(A) Composed primarily of methane; and

(B) Compressed to less than 1% of the volume it occupies at standard atmospheric pressure;

(2) "Compressed natural gas school bus" means a school bus powered by compressed natural gas that is not owned by a school district before its participation in the Compressed Natural Gas School Bus Pilot Program; and

(3) "Qualified applicant" means a school district that applies to the Compressed Natural Gas School Bus Pilot Program and that meets the



qualifications under subsection(c) of this section.

(b)(1) The Compressed Natural Gas School Bus Pilot Program is created for the 2014 and 2015 fiscal years to provide compressed natural gas school buses to four (4) public school districts.

(2) Each congressional district in the state may have one (1) public school district participating in the program.

(3) Each school district in the state may apply to become a participating school district in the program.

(4) If more than one (1) school district from a congressional district applies to the program, the participating district will be selected by random drawing from all qualified applicants submitted for a congressional district.

((5) The Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation shall run the program for its term.

(c)(1)(a) Each public school district participating in the program shall be provided ten (10) compressed natural gas school buses.

(b) The school buses provided under the program shall be purchased by the division based upon specifications and requirements determined by the division.

(2) To qualify for the grant under subdivision (c)(1) of this section each public school district seeking to participate in the program shall submit an application in the form and manner established by the division setting forth that the applicant:

(A)(i) Agrees to purchase ten (10) compressed natural gas school buses, in addition to those provided under subdivision (c)(1) of this section, before June 30, 2015.

(ii) The compressed natural gas school buses to be purchased by the participating district shall meet or exceed:

(a) The specifications and requirements of the compressed natural gas school buses provided by the division; and

(b) Applicable provisions of the rules of the Commission for Arkansas Public School and Academic Facilities and Transportation, as they existed on January 1, 2013;

(B) Either:

(i) Has reasonable access to refueling options to allow for efficient use of the compressed natural gas school buses; or

(ii) Agrees, if the proposal calls for the

construction of a new refueling station, to provide access to the refueling station to the general public; and

(C) Has sufficient resources to purchase, operate, and maintain the compressed natural gas school buses under this section, including information demonstrating that purchase, operation, and maintenance will not cause a financial hardship on the applicant.

(3) In addition to the requirements for qualifying applicants under subsection (c)(2) of this section, the *division* is authorized to develop and require compliance with additional qualifications it deems necessary.

(d) The *division* may promulgate rules to administer the program.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-20-803 is amended to read as follows:

6-20-803. Loans to local school districts.

(a) The maximum amount of money a local school district may borrow from the Revolving Loan Fund shall be five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, a school district participating in the Compressed Natural Gas School Bus Pilot Program under § 6-19-128 additionally may borrow up to one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) for the purchase of new compressed natural gas school buses.

/s/J. Hendren