

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Second Extraordinary Session, 2021

A Bill

Call Item 8
HOUSE BILL 1003

By: Representatives Slape, Cozart
By: Senator B. Sample

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING SECURITY PERSONNEL EMPLOYED BY THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

CONCERNING SECURITY PERSONNEL EMPLOYED BY
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; AND TO DECLARE AN
EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 10-2-125, concerning employees and officers of the General Assembly, is amended to add a new subsection to read as follows:

(c)(1) Both the House of Representatives and the Senate may hire and employ in the manner described under this section security personnel to maintain peaceful order and provide protection to the members and staff of the General Assembly during meetings or other official functions of the General Assembly.

(2)(A) Personnel designated by the House of Representatives or the Senate as security personnel are considered full-time law enforcement officers with the full range of responsibilities and authority as are afforded to a law enforcement officer certified by the Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training.

(B) The House of Representatives and the Senate may set their own training and qualification standards for security personnel



employed by the respective chamber.

(C) The commission shall permit security personnel employed by the General Assembly access to all law enforcement training generally available to other law enforcement personnel and shall make the law enforcement certification process available to security personnel employed by the General Assembly.

(3) Security personnel employed by the House of Representatives or the Senate shall have statewide jurisdiction while the security personnel are acting within the scope of their employment.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the safety of the members of the General Assembly, its staff, and the public is paramount while the General Assembly conducts its business both at the State Capitol and elsewhere around 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.