

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

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

As Engrossed: H3/8/23
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1511

By: Representative R. Scott Richardson

By: Senator J. Dotson

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE CHARLIE'S LAW; TO REQUIRE AN
ELECTRONIC CHILD SAFETY ALARM SYSTEM BE INSTALLED IN
A SCHOOL BUS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE CHARLIE'S LAW; AND TO REQUIRE
AN ELECTRONIC CHILD SAFETY ALARM SYSTEM
BE INSTALLED IN A SCHOOL BUS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 19, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-19-132. Charlie's Law.

(a) This section shall be known and may be cited as "Charlie's Law".

(b)(1) Beginning January 1, 2024, each new or used school bus acquired by a school shall have an electronic child safety alarm system installed.

(2) By January 1, 2029, every school bus owned or operated by a school shall have an electronic child safety alarm system installed.

(c) The electronic child safety alarm system required by this section shall:

(1) Be electronic and activated from the point at which the school bus is turned on;

(2)(A) Remain activated, and not be deactivated, until a reset or deactivate button is pressed at the interior rear of the school bus after the school bus has been turned off.



(B) The reset or deactivation button required under subdivision (c)(2)(A) of this section shall require the school bus driver to manually contact the reset or deactivation button, which shall prompt the school bus driver to inspect the entirety of the interior of the school bus before the school bus driver is able to exit the school bus; and

(3)(A) Provide an audio alarm if the electronic child safety alarm is not reset or deactivated within ten (10) minutes from the point at which the school bus has been turned off.

(B) The audio alarm required under subdivision (c)(3)(A) of this section shall be of significant enough volume as to alert an individual outside of the school bus.

(d) As used in this section, "school" shall include:

- (1) A public school or public school district; or
- (2) An open-enrollment public charter school.

/s/R. Scott Richardson