

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

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1159

By: Representative J. Richardson

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE RETAIL CONVENIENCE STORE
SECURITY ACT; TO REGULATE SECURITY MEASURES AT RETAIL
CONVENIENCE STORES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE RETAIL CONVENIENCE STORE
SECURITY ACT; AND TO REGULATE SECURITY
MEASURES AT RETAIL CONVENIENCE STORES.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 4 is amended to add an additional chapter to read as follows:

CHAPTER 120

RETAIL CONVENIENCE STORE SECURITY ACT

4-120-101. Title.

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Retail Convenience Store Security Act".

4-120-102. Legislative findings.

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Retail convenience stores are convenient for both criminals and consumers alike;

(2) Retail convenience stores have long been targets for nighttime robberies and other crimes;



(3) It has been estimated by law enforcement officials that six percent (6%) of all robberies of businesses in the United States involve retail convenience stores;

(4) Employees in the retail trade sector are at a higher risk of violence and homicide than in other industry sectors, and within the retail sector, employees in gasoline stations or retail convenience stores are at a higher risk of violence and homicide compared with employees in other types of retail and the overall workforce;

(5) According to 2021 Federal Bureau of Investigation crime data, there were over twenty-two thousand seven hundred eighty-eight (22,788) incidents of violent crime that occurred at retail convenience stores in the United States, double the incidence of violent crime that occurred at retail convenience stores in 2017, and represented three percent (3%) of the nation's total violent crime statistics for 2021;

(6) The increase in nighttime robberies and other crimes at retail convenience stores heightens the risk of danger, exposure to violent incidents, and crime to consumers and employees;

(7) Some states have mandated certain minimum security measures at retail convenience stores to enhance and protect customers and employees of convenience stores during the nighttime hours, including Florida, Maine, and New Mexico; and

(8) Increased security measures can decrease the amount of retail convenience store crimes.

4-120-103. Minimum increased security measures – Retail convenience store – Definition.

(a) As used in this section, "retail convenience store" means a location used by an entity to conduct retail sales of miscellaneous consumer convenience goods to the public.

(b) On and after January 1, 2026, a retail convenience store shall:

(1) Require a minimum of two (2) employees on the premises of the retail convenience store between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.;

(2) Require a security camera system capable of recording and retrieving images to assist in offender identification and apprehension;

(3) Have a drop safe or cash management device for restricted access to cash receipts and post a conspicuous notice to this effect at the

retail convenience store;

(4) Maintain a lighted parking lot illuminated at an intensity of at least two foot-candle (2 lm/sq. ft.) at eighteen inches (18") above the parking lot's surface;

(5) Post a conspicuous notice at the entrance of the retail convenience store that states that the cash register contains fifty dollars (\$50) or less;

(6) Maintain window signage that allows a clear and unobstructed view from outside the building and in a normal line of sight of the cash register and sales transaction area;

(7) Install height markers at the entrance of the retail convenience store that displays height measures to aid in offender identification;

(8) Develop a cash management policy to limit the amount of cash on hand at all times after 9:00 p.m.;

(9) Conduct regular employee training;

(10) Maintain a silent alarm to law enforcement or a private security agency; and

(11) Lock the business premises throughout the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. and only transact business through an indirect pass-through trough, trapdoor, or window.

4-120-104. Penalty.

A violation of this chapter is punishable by action of the Attorney General under the provisions of § 4-88-101 et seq.