

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1117

5 By: Representative R. Scott Richardson
6 By: Senator J. Bryant
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY AND
10 SECONDARY EDUCATION AND THE ARKANSAS STATE GAME AND
11 FISH COMMISSION TO DETERMINE THE EARLIEST GRADE IN
12 WHICH IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR STUDENTS TO RECEIVE
13 INSTRUCTION ON FIREARM SAFETY; TO REQUIRE A PUBLIC
14 SCHOOL DISTRICT AND AN OPEN-ENROLLMENT PUBLIC CHARTER
15 SCHOOL TO ANNUALLY PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH INSTRUCTION
16 ON FIREARM SAFETY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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19 CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF
20 INSTRUCTION ON FIREARM SAFETY IN PUBLIC
21 SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND OPEN-ENROLLMENT
22 PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS.
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 1, is amended
28 to add an additional section to read as follows:

29 6-16-163. Instruction on firearm safety – Required.

30 (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly to:

31 (1) Protect Arkansas children from the accidental discharge of
32 firearms by providing age-appropriate firearm education and instruction; and

33 (2) Empower the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission to work
34 with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to create and approve
35 age-appropriate firearm safety and use education courses.

36 (b)(1) The division, in consultation with the commission, shall



1 determine the earliest grade in which it is appropriate for students enrolled
2 in public school districts and open-enrollment public charter schools to
3 begin receiving instruction on firearm safety.

4 (2) In order to make the determination required under
5 subdivision (a)(1) of this section, the division and the commission shall
6 study relevant data and risk factors, including without limitation the
7 earliest age at which:

8 (A) Incidents of injury involving firearms are reported;
9 and

10 (B) Children are susceptible to harm from unsecured
11 firearms that they are able to gain access to.

12 (c) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, each public school
13 district and open-enrollment public charter school shall annually provide
14 students with age-appropriate and grade-appropriate instruction on firearm
15 safety.

16 (d) The curriculum or program of instruction used to educate students
17 on firearm safety under subsection (b) of this section shall:

18 (1) Be approved by the division;

19 (2) Begin in the earliest appropriate grade as determined by the
20 division and the commission under subsection (a) of this section and continue
21 in each subsequent grade through grade twelve (12);

22 (3) Include instruction on the following without limitation:

23 (A) The proper handling and safe storage of firearms;

24 (B) School safety relating to firearms; and

25 (C) The steps to take if a student finds an unsecured
26 firearm, including without limitation the importance of:

27 (i) Avoiding injury if the student finds an
28 unsecured firearm;

29 (ii) Never touching a firearm if the student finds
30 an unsecured firearm; and

31 (iii) Immediately notifying an adult of the location
32 of the unsecured firearm; and

33 (4) Include neutral viewpoints on all included topics, including
34 without limitation:

35 (A) Gun rights and the Second Amendment to the United
36 States Constitution; and

1 (B) The prevention of accidental firearm injury.

2 (e)(1) The division shall not approve a curriculum or program of
3 instruction used to educate students on firearm safety if the curriculum,
4 program of instruction, or any of the instructional materials used as part of
5 the curriculum or program of instruction bear a brand or stated
6 organizational affiliation.

7 (2) However, curricula, programs of instruction, or any of the
8 instructional materials used as part of the curricula or programs of
9 instruction used to educate students on firearm safety may bear a brand
10 issued by the State of Arkansas or any of its departments, agencies, or
11 divisions.

12 (f) The division shall determine the means by which the curriculum or
13 program of instruction used to educate students on firearm safety required
14 under this section shall be provided, which shall be through:

15 (1)(A) A commission-approved firearm safety course, which may
16 include a firearm safety course that is provided in conjunction with a live-
17 fire exercise or sporting event.

18 (B) If a commission-approved firearm safety course is
19 provided in conjunction with a live-fire exercise or sporting event, a
20 participating student shall obtain written approval from his or her parent,
21 legal guardian, or person standing in loco parentis to the student;

22 (2) The viewing of a video; or

23 (3) The review of online resources and materials.

24 (g) As used in this section, "firearm" means the same as defined in §
25 5-1-102.

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