

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

1 State of Arkansas  
2 GIRLS' STATE  
3 Girls State, 2022  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1001

5 By: Representatives A. Brown, B. Batson, T. McMahan  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO PROVIDE MASS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FOR LOW  
9 INCOME INDIVIDUALS IN CITIES WITH A POPULATION  
10 BETWEEN TWENTY THOUSAND (20,000) TO SIXTY THOUSAND  
11 (60,000); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
12  
13

## Subtitle

14 TO PROVIDE MASS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FOR  
15 LOW INCOME INDIVIDUALS IN CITIES WITH A  
16 POPULATION BETWEEN TWENTY THOUSAND  
17 (20,000) TO SIXTY THOUSAND (60,000).  
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ARKANSAS GIRLS' STATE:  
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 27-1-106 is amended to read as follows:  
24 27-1-106. Mass transit – Findings – Powers and duties.

25 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

26 (1) Transportation is a critical problem for the elderly,  
27 individuals with disabilities, and others without access to the use of a  
28 private automobile;

29 (2) Public transportation in the rural and small urban areas in  
30 Arkansas is lacking;

31 (3) Public transportation in many instances is no longer a  
32 profitable undertaking for private enterprise acting alone;

33 (4) Public subsidy of public transportation, whether privately  
34 or publicly operated, is often necessary to provide needed transportation  
35 services;

36 (5) The variety of federal, state, and local activities in

1 providing public transportation services requires coordination for optimal  
2 utilization of and maximum benefit from public resources;

3 (6) Communities require technical assistance in addressing their  
4 public transportation needs; and

5 (7) Transportation is a critical problem for low income  
6 individuals in cities with a population between twenty thousand (20,000) to  
7 sixty thousand (60,000) people; and

8 (8) It is in the best interest of the people of Arkansas to  
9 develop programs providing solutions for the above concerns.

10 (b) To this end, the Arkansas Department of Transportation shall:

11 (1) Coordinate research into the problems of mass transit and  
12 reasonable solutions; and

13 (2) Realize the economies of organized coordinated transport  
14 service in order to eliminate the substantial waste in uncoordinated and  
15 often duplicated efforts which are particularly troublesome in view of the  
16 limited fiscal resources of the smaller urbanized areas and urban places  
17 peculiar to the Arkansas demographic situation.

18 (c) The department is authorized to exercise those powers necessary  
19 for the state to qualify for urban mass transportation administration funds  
20 and any other public transit funds or other transportation assistance  
21 pursuant to the provisions of any federal or state act.

22 (d) The department is authorized to provide financial assistance  
23 within the limits of the funds appropriated for this purpose for capital or  
24 operating assistance to urban mass transportation systems within the state as  
25 provided for in relevant federal or state legislation.

26 (e) The department may cooperate with other states in connection with  
27 the improving, initiating, maintaining, planning, or preserving of any public  
28 transit program within this state. In carrying out the authority conferred by  
29 this subsection, the department may enter into general contractual  
30 arrangements with other states.

31 (f) The department may contract with any domestic or foreign person,  
32 firm, corporation, agency, or government to improve, initiate, maintain,  
33 plan, or preserve any public transit service within this state.

34 (g)(1) In order to provide accessible and affordable transportation  
35 for low income individuals, the department shall:

36 (A) Create a mass transit system to operate within a

1 twenty-mile radius surrounding a central business district of a city with a  
2 population between twenty thousand (20,000) to sixty thousand (60,000)  
3 people;

4 (B) Construct the mass transit system required by  
5 subdivision (g)(1) of this section within five (5) years.

6 (2) The mass transit system required by subdivision (g)(1) of  
7 this section shall be funded by the revenue generated from the city's  
8 increase in population, employment, and income taxes by way of the new mass  
9 transit system opportunity.

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# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1002

5 By: Representative T. Tyler, A. Bardwell, J. Davis, H. Franks  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ARKANSAS ALTERNATIVE ENERGY  
9 COMMISSION TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES TO BUILD SOLAR FARMS  
10 AND USE SOLAR PANELS ON NEW PUBLIC BUILDINGS; AND FOR  
11 OTHER PURPOSES.  
12  
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## Subtitle

14 TO AUTHORIZE THE ARKANSAS ALTERNATIVE  
15 ENERGY COMMISSION TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES  
16 TO BUILD SOLAR FARMS AND USE SOLAR PANELS  
17 ON NEW PUBLIC BUILDINGS.  
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ARKANSAS GIRLS' STATE:  
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 15, Chapter 10, Subchapter 8, is  
23 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

24 15-10-803. Solar farms - Legislative intent - Definition.

25 (a) The General Assembly finds that the use of solar farms may:

26 (1) Reduce greenhouse gasses;

27 (2) Make energy more affordable for farmers and public building

28 owners;

29 (3) Prove to be more efficient for homeowners;

30 (4) Be more reliable and less dependent on limited natural

31 resources; and

32 (5) Allow schools to use the money saved on unused energy for  
33 educational uses.

34 (b) As used in this section, "solar farm" means an installation or  
35 area of land in which a large number of solar panels are set up in order to  
36 generate electricity.

1           (c)(1) The Arkansas Alternative Energy Commission may incentivize the  
2 use of renewable energy by providing incentives to build solar farms and use  
3 solar panels on new public buildings.

4           (2) The commission shall promulgate rules concerning the  
5 incentives under subdivision (c)(1) of this section, including without  
6 limitation the size and location of solar farms.

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# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1003

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5 By: Representatives A. Atchley, T. Tinsley

## For An Act To Be Entitled

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8 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE MENTAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT  
9 ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

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12 TO ESTABLISH THE MENTAL HEALTH  
13 IMPROVEMENT ACT.

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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ARKANSAS GIRLS' STATE:

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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, is amended to add an  
20 additional subchapter to read as follows:

#### Subchapter 25 - Mental Health Improvement Act

##### 6-18-2501. Title.

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25 This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Mental Health  
26 Improvement Act."

##### 6-18-2502. Therapist services.

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28  
29 (a) A public school district shall have one (1) free therapist  
30 available by telehealth or in-person for every one hundred twenty-five (125)  
31 students in the public school district that are in grade six (6) through  
32 grade twelve (12).

33 (b) If a public school district has fewer than one hundred twenty-five  
34 (125) students in the public school district that are in grade six (6)  
35 through grade twelve (12), the public school district shall have at least one  
36 (1) free therapist.

1           (c) A mental health evaluation day shall be administered to students  
2 in grade six (6) through grade twelve (12) every academic school year.

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# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1004

5 By: Representatives K. Garner, R. Moore  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A HEALTH CLASS REQUIREMENT FOR  
9 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
10

## Subtitle

11 TO ESTABLISH A HEALTH CLASS REQUIREMENT  
12 FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.  
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ARKANSAS GIRLS' STATE:  
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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 10, is  
20 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

21 6-16-1007. Health class requirement.

22 (a) A high school student shall be required to take a year-long health  
23 class that shall include without limitation the following topics:

24 (1) Comprehensive sex education;

25 (2) Organ donation;

26 (3) Mental health awareness; and

27 (4) Cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

28 (b) At the end of the class, the high school student shall take an  
29 exam and obtain a passing grade in order to graduate.  
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1 State of Arkansas  
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## A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1005

4  
5 Representatives A. Lee, M. Wrzesinski, G. Francis

### For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ENACT THE BACKPACK ACT; TO AMEND THE SALES  
9 AND USE TAXATION OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES; AND FOR OTHER  
10 PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

14 TO ENACT THE BACKPACK ACT; AND TO AMEND  
15 THE SALES AND USE TAXATION OF SCHOOL  
16 SUPPLIES.

18  
19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ARKANSAS GIRLS' STATE:

20  
21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 26, Chapter 52, Subchapter 4, is  
22 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

23 26-52-455. Exemption for school supplies.

24 (a) As used in this act:

25 (1)(A) "Electronic device" includes without limitation:

26 (i) A calculator;

27 (ii) A cellular phone;

28 (iii) A computer mouse;

29 (iv) A computer monitor;

30 (v) A computer keyboard;

31 (vi) A desktop computer;

32 (vii) An e-reader;

33 (viii) A laptop computer;

34 (ix) A printer; and

35 (x) A tablet.

36 (B) "Electronic device" does not include a system, device,

1 or peripheral designed or intended primarily for recreational use;

2 (2) "Qualifying student" means a person enrolled in or  
3 registered to matriculate at:

4 (A) A public, private, or charter primary or secondary  
5 school; or

6 (B) A public or private two-year or four-year  
7 postsecondary educational institution;

8 (3)(A) "School supply" means an item commonly used by a student  
9 in a course of study.

10 (B) "School supply" includes without limitation an  
11 electronic device, textbook, or backpack or other satchel designed primarily  
12 to carry or transport books, pens, papers, and electronic devises.

13 (b) The gross receipts or gross proceeds derived from the sale of  
14 school supplies to a qualifying student or to a parent or guardian of and for  
15 the use of the qualifying student are exempt from the gross receipts tax  
16 levied by this chapter and the compensating use tax levied by the Arkansas  
17 Compensating Tax Act of 1949, § 26-53-101 et seq.

18 (c) The Department of Finance and Administration shall promulgate  
19 rules to carry out this section.

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21 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. Section 1 of this act is effective on the  
22 first day of the calendar quarter following the effective date of this act.

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# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1006

5 Representatives A. Passmore, H. Murphy, K. Holzhauser, M. Calaway  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE INCOME TAX ACT OF 1929; TO ENACT  
9 A TAX CREDIT FOR QUALIFYING EXPENSES OF FOSTER  
10 PARENTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

## Subtitle

12 TO AMEND THE INCOME TAX ACT OF 1929; AND  
13 TO ENACT A TAX CREDIT FOR QUALIFYING  
14 EXPENSES OF FOSTER PARENTS.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ARKANSAS GIRLS' STATE:  
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 26, Chapter 51, Subchapter 5, is  
22 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

23 26-51-517. Foster parent tax credit.

24 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

25 (1) Current federal law provides an income tax credit against  
26 federal income tax liability for foster parents;

27 (2) Current Arkansas law does not provide a tax credit against  
28 Arkansas income tax liability for foster parents;

29 (3) Foster parents become ineligible for the federal income tax  
30 credit when the foster child reaches the age of eighteen (18), when the child  
31 ages out of the foster system; and

32 (4) It would benefit foster parents and foster children to enact  
33 an Arkansas income tax credit for foster parents and extend the age limit to  
34 twenty-one (21).

35 (b)(1) A foster parent is allowed an income tax credit for qualified  
36 expenditures against the income tax imposed by this chapter.

1                   (2) The income tax credit is available for qualified  
2 expenditures until the foster child reaches age twenty-one (21).

3                   (c) The Department of Human Services shall promulgate rules to:

4                   (1) Establish the eligibility criteria for foster parents and  
5 for qualifying expenditures; and

6                   (2) Set the maximum allowable tax credit.

7                   (d) The Department of Finance and Administration shall promulgate  
8 rules to carry out this section.

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10                   SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. Section 1 of this act is effective for tax  
11 years beginning on or after January 1, 2023.

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3 Girls State, 2022  
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# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1607

5 By: Representatives A. Lindsey, A. Altom, L. Foster, R. Hogan, E. Johnson, D. Keolaphan, C. Lane, A.  
6 Sartin, H. Smart  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8  
9 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE REQUIREMENT OF ACT SCORES FOR  
10 ADMISSION TO STATE-SUPPORTED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER  
11 EDUCATION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
12  
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## Subtitle

14  
15 TO PROHIBIT THE REQUIREMENT OF ACT SCORES  
16 FOR ADMISSION TO STATE-SUPPORTED  
17 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.  
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ARKANSAS GIRLS' STATE:  
21

22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 60, Subchapter 2, is amended  
23 to add an additional section to read as follows:

24 6-60-216. ACT Scores for admission – Prohibited.

25 A state-supported institution of higher education shall not require an  
26 applicant to submit a score he or she earned on the ACT for purposes of  
27 gaining admission to the state-supported institution of higher education.

28 (1) However, a state-supported institution of higher education  
29 may require an applicant to submit a score he or she earned on the ACT for  
30 purposes of an institutional scholarship program that is not state-supported.  
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# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1008

5 By: Representative A. Sartin  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE SCHOOL COUNSELING IMPROVEMENT ACT  
9 OF 2019; TO AMEND THE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR  
10 SCHOOL COUNSELORS; TO REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO  
11 DEVELOP A POLICY FOR THE PROVISION OF STUDENT MENTAL  
12 HEALTH SERVICES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

14 TO AMEND THE SCHOOL COUNSELING  
15 IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2019.  
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ARKANSAS GIRLS' STATE:  
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-18-2003(a)(2), concerning the  
23 requirements included in a public school district's written plan for a  
24 comprehensive school counseling program, is amended to add an additional  
25 subdivision to read as follows:

26 (F) Specifies the provision of mental health services for  
27 public school students that ensures privacy and timely responses.  
28

29 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-18-2003, concerning a public school's  
30 comprehensive school counseling program and plan framework requirements, is  
31 amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:

32 (c)(1) A public school district may contract with a local professional  
33 to provide mental health training and services required by this subchapter.

34 (2) A local professional contracting with a public school  
35 district under subdivision (c)(1) of this section may include without  
36 limitation:

- 1                    (A) A mental health clinic;  
2                    (B) A social worker;  
3                    (C) A licensed counselor or therapist; or  
4                    (D) A psychologist.

5  
6            SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-18-2004(b)(1), concerning the amount of  
7 time a school counselor shall spend working to provide to students direct and  
8 indirect services as they relate to academic and career planning and social  
9 and emotional support services, is amended to read as follows:

10            (b)(1)(A) A school counselor shall spend at least ninety percent (90%)  
11 of his or her working time during student contact days providing direct  
12 services and indirect services to students.

13                    (B) However, at least one-half (1/2) of the amount of time  
14 a school counselor spends providing direct services and indirect services to  
15 students shall be spent providing mental health support and social and  
16 emotional skills designed to support students, as provided under subdivision  
17 (b)(1)(F) of this section.

18  
19            SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-18-2004(d), concerning training  
20 requirements for school counselors, is amended to read as follows:

21            (d) By September 1, 2024, and every ~~four (4)~~ two (2) years following,  
22 a school counselor shall receive Youth Mental Health First Aid training to  
23 learn the risk factors and warning signs of mental health issues in  
24 adolescents, the importance of early intervention, and how to help an  
25 adolescent who is in crisis or expecting a mental health challenge.

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1 State of Arkansas  
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3 Girls State, 2022

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1009

4  
5 By: Representatives E. Pendleton, G. Peret, A. Pierce, K. Isom

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE A PROGRAM TO ADDRESS VETERAN  
9 HOMELESSNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES; AND FOR OTHER  
10 PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

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13 TO CREATE A PROGRAM TO ADDRESS VETERAN  
14 HOMELESSNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES.

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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ARKANSAS GIRLS' STATE:

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20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 25, Chapter 43, Subchapter 16, is  
21 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

22 25-43-1606. Grant Program.

23 (a) The Department of Veterans Affairs shall create a program to  
24 provide services to veterans experiencing homelessness and mental health  
25 issues.

26 (b) The program established by the department under subsection (a) of  
27 this section is authorized to:

28 (1) Accept federal funds;

29 (2) Disburse grant funds to each county to support the program;

30 and

31 (3) Provide services to veterans experiencing homelessness and  
32 mental health issues.

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1 State of Arkansas  
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# A Bill

HOUSE BILL **1010**

5 By: Representatives S. Murry, E. Hunter, K. Isom, J. Sumpter, A. Pierce  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 A ACT TO CREATE A PROGRAM TO ADDRESS STUDENT HUNGER;  
9 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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### Subtitle

11 TO CREATE A PROGRAM TO ADDRESS STUDENT  
12 HUNGER.  
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ARKANSAS GIRLS' STATE:  
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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 10, Subchapter 1, is amended  
20 to add an additional section to read as follows:

21 6-10-137. Student food needs program.

22 (a) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall create a  
23 program to address student hunger and food scarcity during times when school  
24 is not in session.

25 (b) The program established by the division under subsection (a) of  
26 this section is authorized to:

27 (1) Accept federal funds, including funds distributed through  
28 the American Rescue Plan Act;

29 (2) Create partnerships to address student hunger with:

30 (A) Counties;

31 (B) Local non-profit organizations; and

32 (C) School districts; and

33 (3) Disburse funds to provide for the following, including but  
34 not limited to:

35 (A) Food;

36 (B) Staff;

- 1                    (C) Transportation;
- 2                    (D) Gas for vehicles used to deliver food; and
- 3                    (E) Other expenses while providing food assistance
- 4 services to students.

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