

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013

A Bill

SENATE BILL 1146

4
5 By: Senator J. Hendren

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL
9 DISTRICTS TO OBTAIN COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS SCHOOL
10 BUSSES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

14 TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL
15 DISTRICTS TO OBTAIN COMPRESSED NATURAL
16 GAS SCHOOL BUSES.

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

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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 19, Subchapter 1, concerning
22 transportation for elementary and secondary education, is amended to add an
23 additional section to read as follows:

24 6-19-128. Compressed Natural Gas School Bus Pilot Program.

25 (a) As used in this section:

26 (1) "Compressed natural gas" means a fossil fuel substitute
27 for gasoline, diesel fuel, propane, or liquid propane gas that is:

28 (A) Composed primarily of methane; and

29 (B) Compressed to less than 1% of the volume it occupies
30 at standard atmospheric pressure;

31 (2) "Compressed natural gas school bus" means a school bus
32 powered by compressed natural gas that is not owned by a school district
33 before its participation in the Compressed Natural Gas School Bus Pilot
34 Program; and

35 (3) "Qualified applicant" means a school district that applies
36 to the Compressed Natural Gas School Bus Pilot Program and that meets the



1 qualifications under subsection(c) of this section.

2 (b)(1) The Compressed Natural Gas School Bus Pilot Program is created
3 as a one-year program to provide compressed natural gas school buses to four
4 (4) public school districts.

5 (2) Each congressional district in the state may have one (1)
6 public school district participating in the program.

7 (3) Each school district in the state may apply to become a
8 participating school district in the program.

9 (4) If more than one (1) school district from a congressional
10 district applies to the program, the participating district will be selected
11 by random drawing from all qualified applicants submitted for a congressional
12 district.

13 (5) The Department of Education shall run the program for the
14 2013-2014 school year.

15 (c)(1) Each public school district participating in the program shall
16 receive a grant for the purchase of ten (10) compressed natural gas school
17 buses.

18 (2) To qualify for the grant under subdivision (c)(1) of this
19 section each public school district seeking to participate in the program
20 shall submit an application in the form and manner established by the
21 department setting forth that the applicant:

22 (A) Agrees to purchase ten (10) compressed natural gas
23 school buses in addition to those provided with the grant under subdivision
24 (c)(1) of this section during the time period of the program;

25 (B) Either:

26 (i) Has reasonable access to refueling options to
27 allow for efficient use of the compressed natural gas school buses; or

28 (ii) Agrees, if the proposal calls for the
29 construction of a new refueling station, to provide access to the refueling
30 station to the general public; and

31 (C) Has sufficient resources to purchase, operate, and
32 maintain the compressed natural gas school buses under this section,
33 including information demonstrating that purchase, operation, and maintenance
34 will not cause a financial hardship on the applicant.

35 (3) In addition to the requirements for qualifying applicants
36 under subsection (c)(2) of this section, the department is authorized to

1 develop and require compliance with additional qualifications it deems
2 necessary.

3 (d) The department may promulgate rules to administer the program.
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5 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-20-803 is amended to read as follows:
6 6-20-803. Loans to local school districts.

7 (a) The maximum amount of money a local school district may borrow
8 from the Revolving Loan Fund shall be five hundred thousand dollars
9 (\$500,000).

10 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, a school district
11 participating in the Compressed Natural Gas School Bus Pilot Program under §
12 6-19-128 additionally may borrow up to one million five hundred thousand
13 dollars (\$1,500,000) for the purchase, operation, and maintenance of new
14 compressed natural gas school buses.

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