

1 State of Arkansas  
2 88th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2011  
4

*As Engrossed: S3/22/11*  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1810

5 By: Representatives D. Hutchinson, Moore  
6

7 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

8 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH SAFETY STANDARDS FOR ANCHORING  
9 SOCCER GOALS ON PLAYGROUNDS AND OTHER RECREATION  
10 AREAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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13 **Subtitle**

14 JONATHAN'S LAW: TO ESTABLISH SAFETY  
15 STANDARDS FOR ANCHORING SOCCER GOALS ON  
16 PLAYGROUNDS AND OTHER RECREATION AREAS.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. The General Assembly finds that:

22 (1) On January 26, 2011, a tragic incident occurred when  
23 Jonathan Brian Nelson, who was nine (9) years of age, died of injuries  
24 sustained when an unanchored soccer goal fell on his head at Elm Tree  
25 Elementary School in Bentonville;

26 (2) There are approximately five hundred thousand (500,000)  
27 soccer goals in the United States, and many of these soccer goals are unsafe  
28 because they are improperly designed, manufactured, or installed;

29 (3) Problems arise with instability of movable soccer goals when  
30 they are unanchored, not properly anchored, or not properly counterbalanced;

31 (4) Unstable soccer goals pose an unnecessary risk of tip-over  
32 to children who climb on the goals or nets or hang from the crossbar and can  
33 cause catastrophic injury to persons around the soccer goal;

34 (5) There were at least nine (9) children under the age of  
35 sixteen (16) killed in accidents involving movable soccer goals between 1998  
36 and mid-2010 and two thousand (2,000) serious injuries during this same



1 period, according to the United States Consumer Products Safety Commission;  
2 and

3 (6) This act is necessary to ensure the safety of children  
4 around soccer goals at schools and other recreational areas in the state.

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6 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 7, Subchapter 1 is amended  
7 to add an additional section to read as follows:

8 20-7-136. Soccer goal safety.

9 (a)(1) As used in this section, "public recreation area" means an area  
10 that is used by members of the public for recreational activities.

11 (2) "Public recreation area" includes a privately owned or  
12 publicly owned:

13 (A) Park;

14 (B) Sports field;

15 (C) Auditorium;

16 (D) School playground; or

17 (E) Other school facility.

18 (b) A soccer goal in a public recreation area shall be anchored  
19 according to the Guidelines for Movable Soccer Goal Safety promulgated by the  
20 United States Consumer Product Safety Commission as in effect on February 1,  
21 2011, or the guidelines adopted by the Department of Health.

22 (c) The Department of Health shall develop and adopt guidelines for  
23 soccer goal safety as provided under this section.

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25 /s/D. Hutchinson  
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