



## Daily Legislative Update

91st General Assembly

Friday, January 27, 2017 – Day 19

### CAPITOL SCHEDULE

The Legislature is adjourned until Monday, January 30, when the Senate will convene at 1 p.m. and the House will convene at 1:30 p.m.

To view schedules for all of today's activities, committee agendas, bills and other information related to the Session, visit [www.arkleg.state.ar.us](http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us).

### MONDAY AT THE CAPITOL

#### GOVERNOR'S RETIRED MILITARY TAX REDUCTIONS

**HB1159** by Rep. Charlene Fite, R-Van Buren, Sen. Jane English, R-North Little Rock, **30 additional House members and 13 additional Senators**, is on the Senate Calendar for consideration Monday afternoon by the full Senate.

**SB 120** by Sen. Jane English, R-North Little Rock, Rep. Charlene Fite, R-Van Buren, **13 additional Senators and 30 additional House members**, is set for a Special Order of business in the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee that will meet following adjournment of the Senate Monday afternoon. These are the identical bills that create an income tax exemption for military retirement benefits.

We support this plan to cut the income taxes paid by retired military.

#### EQUALIZING SALES TAXES FOR REMOTE SELLERS WITH IN-STATE SELLERS

**SB 140**, by Sen. Jake Files, R-Fort Smith, and Rep. Dan Douglas, R-Bentonville, would require certain high-volume merchants that sell products in Arkansas, but do not have a physical presence in Arkansas, to remit sales taxes to Arkansas. This bill is expected to be considered in the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee Monday afternoon.

The State Chamber/AIA has longstanding policy to support efforts like this to equalize the sales tax playing field between in-state brick and mortar sellers with out-of-state sellers.

#### PRIMARY ELECTION DATE

**SB 122 by Sen. Gary Stubblefield** is on the Senate Calendar for Monday afternoon. It would set the Primary Election date permanently at an earlier date like was done in 2016.

#### **LIMITATIONS ON PURCHASES WITH FOOD STAMPS**

**HB 1035 by Rep. Mary Bentley, R-Perryville, and Sen. Cecile Bledsoe, R-Rogers**, was amended a third time, to adjust sponsors, and given a second Do Pass recommendation from the House Revenue and Taxation Committee and is now awaiting placement on the House Calendar.

We join many of our member retail food sellers and food manufacturers in opposing this bill that seeks to limit which foods can be purchased with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. The intent of the bill is to encourage a healthier diet, but it creates a variety of problems.

Grocers would have to implement and maintain an approved food list, which would be subject to much change. The governmental decision about which foods are healthy or not healthy is very difficult and would involve more than 300,000 food and beverage products. It could inadvertently block the purchase of nutritionally dense foods. SNAP is part of a national program, so changes made in Arkansas would impact beneficiaries that need to make purchases out of state due to their location or because of some sort of an emergency.

#### **STATE CHAMBER/AIA BILL TRACKING**

##### **NEW BILLS**

**HB 1369 by Rep. Doug House, R-North Little Rock, and Sen. Missy Irvin, R-Mountain View**, creates the Arkansas Medical Marijuana Implementation and Operations Fund.

**HB 1370 by Rep. House and Sen. Irvin** would require the Medical Marijuana Commission to regulate the advertising, marketing, packaging and promotion of dispensaries and cultivation facilities to avoid children being attracted to the product.

**HB 1371 by Rep. House and Sen. Irvin** would limit medical marijuana licenses only in the name of a natural person with ownership interests, like current ABC regulations, and require criminal background checks for anyone with at least 10 percent ownership.

**SJR 4, by Sen. Jeremy Hutchinson, R-Little Rock**, would lengthen Supreme Court Justices' terms to 14 years and establish a Judicial Nomination Commission responsible for ranking potential appointees to the Supreme Court. This Commission would consist of five members, three appointed by the Governor and one each by the Speaker of the House and the Senate President.

##### **TRACKED BILLS**

The House has filed 377 bills and the Senate 237 bills. We are now tracking 136 bills.

To view a list of all bills added to our tracking today, click [here](#).

Our entire list of tracked bills are posted on our website by category, which you can access by clicking [here](#).

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION INFORMATION AND MESSAGE CENTER

To view schedules, calendars, bill information and legislator information, visit [www.arkleg.state.ar.us](http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us).

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