



Daily Legislative Update

92nd General Assembly

Tuesday, January 22, 2019 – Session Day 9

TODAY AT THE CAPITOL

The Senate will convene at 1 p.m. and the House at 1:30 p.m. this afternoon.

Legislative Calendar: www.arkleg.state.ar.us

STATE CHAMBER/AIA LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION 4:30 P.M. THIS AFTERNOON!

Please make plans to join us this afternoon for our State Chamber/AIA Legislative Reception, presented by **Cox Communications, Southland Gaming & Racing, Stephens Inc., Walmart and XTO Energy**. The reception will begin at 4:30 p.m. under the big tent in the State Chamber/AIA's north parking lot at 1200 W. Capitol Ave. in Little Rock. This event will be attended by many state legislators, constitutional officers, state officials, State Chamber/AIA member representatives, Leadership Arkansas alumni and others.

GOVERNMENT TRANSFORMATION

HB 1070 by Rep. Andy Davis and Sen. Bart Hester would create the Transformation and Efficiencies Act of 2019, to establish 14 cabinet-level departments led by an executive head named the secretary. It also establishes the powers and duties of a cabinet-level department.

HB 1070 is one of nine bills filed so far to address the Governor's plan to reorganize state government. It will be presented as a Special Order of Business in the Senate State Agencies Committee at 10 a.m. morning in the Old Supreme Court Room. The meeting is for discussion purposes only.

To see all nine government transformation bills, click this link: <https://arkansasstatechamber-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/p/khall/EREHGyOxR1JGhHgjlNoO-7EBaVJbDhKUX0xOIMQ5ITSBIA?e=PKfM0v>

It is our understanding, and similar information was reported in Sunday's *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, that the plan for the transformation bills is to file them separately, let them sit for about a week, then refile all of the bill's language into one big omnibus bill.

BILL FILING DEADLINE ELIMINATED

SCR 1 contains the language for the House and Senate's Joint Rules for the 92nd General Assembly. This Resolution includes the provision to strike the bill filing deadline. **SCR 1** has been given a Do Pass recommendation by the Senate Rules Committee and is on this afternoon's Senate Calendar.

BILLS WE ARE WORKING ON

MINIMUM WAGE

SB 115, by Sen. Bob Ballinger and Rep. Frances Cavanaugh, would create an exemption to the Minimum Wage Act for employers with fewer than 50 employees, employers that are schools or institutions of higher education and 501(c)(3) nonprofits.

We have a group of members and attorneys working on this issue. We are in contact with the sponsors of **SB 115** and other legislators about this issue and have a working group of lawyers and business interests looking for options.

We are concerned about how the minimum wage increase will impact workers, small businesses and our economy. Our President & CEO, Randy Zook, published an article in *Arkansas Money & Politics* earlier this month entitled ***The False Promise of Minimum Wage***. Here's a link to the article on our website: <https://www.arkansasstatechamber.com/news-publications/news-releases/the-false-promise-of-minimum-wage/>

COVENANTS NOT TO COMPETE

HB 1068, by Rep. Brian Evans and Sen. Ricky Hill, seeks to repeal a statute addressing non-compete agreements between employers and employees. Uncodified language says the repeal does not affect the ability of an employer to protect trade secrets under the Trade Secrets Act.

We have been in contact with the sponsors and will be meeting with them this week. Repealing the existing statute on these covenants will not eliminate their use. Instead, legal control would return to common law. We believe modifications to the existing statute is the best approach and will work with human resource attorneys and the sponsors to develop an amendment to the bill.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

HB 1150 by Rep. Doug House is on this afternoon's House Calendar to adopt an amendment adding Sen. Bob Ballinger as a sponsor. This bill seeks to remove glaucoma from the list of conditions that qualify for medical marijuana usage. It also seeks to greatly expand the list of qualifying medical conditions to use medical marijuana. Some of the proposed additional conditions are: asthma, attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, chronic insomnia, complex regional pain syndrome Type I and Type II, general anxiety disorder, migraine, post-concussion syndrome and restless leg syndrome.

STATE CHAMBER/AIA TRACKED BILLS

No bills were filed yesterday. The House has filed 214 bills, the Senate 139 bills and we are tracking 67 bills and resolutions.

Link to all bills we are tracking: <https://arkansasstatechamber-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/p/khall/EccaVdu2O4NPjLzYKRJsGWMBQcVtkxDc6yXMnww4MOQCIA?e=LR1tRC>

All bills we are tracking are also posted on our website by category, click this link: <https://www.arkansasstatechamber.com/governmental-affairs/legislative-tracking/>

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 8-10 | 60TH WASHINGTON FLY-IN

Our 60th Annual Washington Fly-in and Congressional Dinner is set for May 8 – 10, 2019. Please make plans to join us. For information on the planned events, to register or learn about sponsorship opportunities, click <https://www.arkansasstatechamber.com/news-publications/news-releases/save-the-date-60th-annual-washington-fly-in-congressional-dinner-may-8-10/>

Thank you to the following sponsors:

Aerojet Rocketdyne, AEP-SWEPCO, Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, Entergy Arkansas, Nabholz Construction Services, Southwest Power Pool and Walmart.

If your company or organization would like to help sponsor the Washington Fly-In & Congressional Dinner, please contact Bill Watson at bwatson@arkansasstatechamber.com or 501-802-1740.



STATE CHAMBER/AIA 2019 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

To review our 2019 Legislative Agenda, click this link: <https://arkansasstatechamber-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/p/khall/EaL12Jp74lNJs5oLpIGDXw8BMAKxeaisr7hcr0VSIEIFRq?e=afChNW>

LEGISLATIVE SESSION INFORMATION

To view schedules, calendars, bill information and legislator information, visit: www.arkleg.state.ar.us.

Legislative Message Center

House of Representatives: 501-682-6211

Senate: 501-682-2902

The House and Senate now both have live streaming of their business. Links to the live stream are on their webpages.

House: <https://www.arkansashouse.org/>

Senate: <http://www.arkansas.gov/senate/>

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