



# Daily Legislative Update

92<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly

Thursday, January 24, 2019 – Session Day 11

## TODAY AT THE CAPITOL

The House will convene at 10:00 a.m. and the Senate at 11:30 a.m.

Legislative Calendar: [www.arkleg.state.ar.us](http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us)

## GOVERNMENT TRANSFORMATION

**HB 1071**, which establishes the Department of Veteran's Affairs, and **HB 1072**, which established the Department of Health, will be presented as a Special Order of Business this morning in the Senate State Agencies Committee. Both are sponsored by Rep. Andy Davis and Sen. Bart Hester

All government transformation bills filed to date can be viewed here: [https://arkansasstatechamber-my.sharepoint.com/:w/p/khall/EajfDK9WggRLtOt7Nna8WOoBI4\\_rWnMh6huaXBxQRfz1Qg?e=voAfr m](https://arkansasstatechamber-my.sharepoint.com/:w/p/khall/EajfDK9WggRLtOt7Nna8WOoBI4_rWnMh6huaXBxQRfz1Qg?e=voAfr m)

## YESTERDAY AT THE CAPITOL

### BILL FILING DEADLINE ELIMINATION

**SCR 1** contains the language for the House and Senate's Joint Rules for the 92<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly, which includes the provision to strike the bill filing deadline. **SCR 1** awaits consideration in the House Rules Committee.

### 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. An amendment was added yesterday that primarily adds an emergency clause.

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 titled **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/>

## RED TAPE REDUCTION WORKING GROUP

The Red Tape Reduction Working Group (RTRWG) met yesterday afternoon and discussed a handful of draft bills. They do not plan to endorse or vote on bills but will develop bills for filing and consideration by the assigned standing committee. The Occupational Licensing Advisory Group (OLAG) will meet tomorrow to discuss the draft bills from yesterday's RTRWG meeting.

## **BILLS WE ARE WORKING ON**

### **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 soon.

### **MEDICAL MARIJUANA**

**HB 1150** by Rep. Doug House had an amendment adopted yesterday. The amendment clarified that glaucoma remains on the list of approved medical conditions. The amendment did NOT add Sen. Bob Ballinger as a co-sponsor, which we erroneously reported earlier. Apologies to Sen. Ballinger.

This bill 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**

The House has now filed 245 bills and the Senate 162 bills. We added 11 to our tracking and are now tracking 89 bills and resolutions.

New bills added to tracking today can be reviewed by clicking this link: <https://arkansasstatechamber-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/p/khall/EV1BwPitfPIGvMLae7XcXQQBPBDVSfj1TAsWvNNtkl3wfw?e=FyfUYt>

All bills we are tracking are 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 60<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:bwatson@arkansasstatechamber.com) or 501-802-1740.



## LEGISLATIVE SESSION INFORMATION

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

### Legislative Message Center

House of Representatives: 501-682-6211

Senate: 501-682-2902

### 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>

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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