



Daily Legislative Update

92nd General Assembly

Monday, January 28, 2019 – Session Day 15

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

BILL FILING DEADLINE ELIMINATION

SCR 1 contains the language for the House and Senate's Joint Rules of the 92nd General Assembly, which includes the provision to strike the bill filing deadline. **SCR 1** is on this afternoon's House Calendar for final consideration.

PROCUREMENT RULES

A handful of bills related to procurement laws were filed last week and are on this afternoon's House Calendar. All bills make various changes to the state procurement law plus the following specific changes:

HB 1161 by Rep. Jim Dotson and Sen. Scott Flippo adds procedures and requirements for service contracts.

HB 1162 by Rep. Jim Dotson and Sen. Scott Flippo adds contract review procedures and requires contractors to ensure compliance with this revised law in cooperation with state agencies.

HB 1179 by Rep. Jeff Wardlaw and Sen. Scott Flippo relates to aggrieved bidders and the process for protesting solicitations and awards. It also seeks to require the State Procurement Director to create a written delegation order when delegating authority.

HB 1180 by Rep. Jeff Wardlaw and Sen. Scott Flippo prioritizes opportunities for awarding mandatory state contracts under cooperative purchasing agreements.

HB 1181 by Rep. Jeff Wardlaw and Sen. Scott Flippo seeks to prohibit firms that have an existing state contract under which they have demonstrated poor material performance from submitting additional bids.

These bills were discussed in Committee and received Do Pass recommendations last week. Click the link below to see last Thursday's report of the Committee hearing by the Arkansas Democrat Gazette:

<https://arkansasstatechamber-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/p/khall/EUiNORaTG3pDvfXf3TZsP2EBwiwGrcUBxqo7T6kki1Ywqg?e=MedmkU>

FRIDAY AT THE CAPITOL

RED TAPE REDUCTION WORKING GROUP

The Occupational Licensing Advisory Group (OLAG) to the Red Tape Reduction Working Group (RTRWG) met Friday afternoon and discussed various filed and draft bills related to licensing. Here's a brief summary of the topics and draft bill numbers and the filed bill:

Criminal Background Reviews/Fresh Start legislation:

RTRWG co-chairs Rep. Bruce Cozart (**JMB082**) and Sen. John Cooper (**JMB077**) each have a draft bill on this subject and Sen. Garner has a draft bill (**JMB089**):

Collective Rule Filing

Rep. Cozart has a draft bill (**JMB081**) on this issue.

License Reciprocity and Expedited/Temporary Licensing

Rep. Cozart (**JMB083**) and Sen. Cooper (**JMB076**) each have a draft bill on this subject and Rep. Jim Dotson and Senator Bart Hester have filed **HB 1255** on this issue.

Legislative/Sunset Review legislation

Rep. Richard Womack (**JMB075**), Sen. Cooper (**JMB078**) and Rep. Cozart (**JMB080**) have bills on this issue.

Here's a link to all of the draft bills and the bill highlighted above:

<https://arkansasstatechamber-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/p/khall/EnQ032WIR75FoROPr1sM-egBZyaONxPTpELzlAE9sSn9vA?e=RFVqEw>

Here's a link to all filed bills that we've found related to licensing in general. Only HB 1255 was discussed by OLAG Friday: https://arkansasstatechamber-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/p/khall/EYp19IVF4x1FvwmrTYRzdzUBLLbJFP9Nw_TGPOktZPaNxA?e=PD6Wul

BILLS WE ARE WORKING ON

MINIMUM WAGE

Our group of members and attorneys are still working on this issue.

If you have identified the impact of the minimum wage increase to your business, please send us a written report. These will be very helpful as we discuss potential legislation to mitigate the impact of the minimum wage increase with legislators.

Earlier this month, our President & CEO, Randy Zook, published an op-ed in *Arkansas Money & Politics* 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/>

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. Rep. Cavanaugh is willing to hold this bill until we get our suggestions completed.

BILLS TO WATCH

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

HB 1150 by Rep. Doug House 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

Only one bill was filed Friday, which increased the number of bills filed in the Senate to 170. House members have filed 257 bills. We are tracking 103 bills and resolutions.

All bills we are tracking are posted on our website by category at 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. 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.



LEGISLATIVE SESSION INFORMATION

To view schedules, calendars, bill information and legislator information, click: 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/EaL12Jp74lNJs5oLpIGDXw8BMAKxeaisr7hcr0VSIEIFRg?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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