



Daily Legislative Update

92nd General Assembly

Wednesday, January 30, 2019 – Session Day 17

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

CONVENTION OF THE STATES

SJR 3 by Sen. Gary Stubblefield is on this afternoon's agenda in the House State Agencies Committee, which will meet following adjournment of the House. This bill seeks to add Arkansas to the required number of states in order to have the United States Congress call a Convention to amend the Constitution of the United States.

BILLS WE ARE WORKING ON

MINIMUM WAGE

Our attorneys have concluded their work on this issue and a bill will be coming very soon.

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* 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/>

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. The sponsors are holding this bill until we get our suggestions completed.

BILLS TO WATCH

LICENSING AND REGULATION BILLS

HB 1296 by Rep. Austin McCollum was filed yesterday. It would prohibit suspension or revocation of an occupational license for defaulting or having delinquent payments or satisfaction of student loans or scholarships.

Below is a quick review of most of the bills related to occupational licensing and further below is a link to our list of all bills we're tracking that address licensing in any way. Some of these bills are beginning to move, so if you see any bill that impacts your business, please review it and let us know if you have any concerns or see anything that might need to be amended.

Previously filed occupational licensing bills include:

SB 171 would create a seven-member Occupational Licensing Sunrise and Sunset Commission appointed by the Governor to review all legislation relating to licensure requirements, unregulated occupations inconsistent with the public health and safety, and other similar matters.

SB 175 would permit an occupational licensing entity to waive disqualification or revocation of a license for offenses in the Arkansas Code upon the request of listed parties who meet enumerated criteria.

Other bills: **SB 172**-Social Workers, **SB 178**-Athletic Trainers, **SB 189**-Advanced Practice Nurses, **SB 190**-Genetic Counselors, **HB 1264**-Veterinary supervision of chiropractic animal care, **HB 1265**-full independent practice authority to certain nurses, **HB 1271**-Real estate course deadline, **HB 1276**-Duties of Real Estate Commission, **HB 1282**-Advanced Practice Nurses' prescription authority and **HB 1283**-Registered Nurse Anesthetists.

Click this link to see all licensing and regulations related bills we've tracked:

<https://arkansasstatechamber-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/p/khall/EWmm7pc5gZZCj1y1oggeN1IBATf-mML5lthFrHUzq5XtKw?e=3RKqid>

PROCUREMENT RULES

The handful of bills related to procurement laws are now on tomorrow's agenda in the Senate State Agencies Committee. In addition to general changes to the procurement laws, the following specific changes are included in the bills:

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 existing state contracts under which they have demonstrated poor material performance from submitting additional bids.

Click this link to read a summary of the Committee hearing on these bills by the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*:

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

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

The Senate has now filed 199 bills and the House 296. We added 4 bills to our tracking and are now tracking 132 bills and resolutions.

Click this link to see the new bills added to our tracking:

https://arkansasstatechamber-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/p/khall/EcAZ6RtDvD5KtnhjELGnWSYBJG_0nE_rN0iPYrd72Z4KsA?e=Aq4lCF

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

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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