



# Daily Legislative Update

92<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly

February, 4, 2019 – Session Day 22

## TODAY AT THE CAPITOL

The Senate convened at 1:00 p.m. and the House at 1:30 p.m. this afternoon.

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

\* \* \* CALL TO ACTION \* \* \*

## TAX REDUCTIONS

**SB 211** by Sen. Jonathan Dismang and Rep. Joe Jett is the Governor's plan for his third step in reducing income taxes. The bill received a Do Pass recommendation this morning by the Senate Revenue & Taxation Committee. It is expected to be on the Senate floor tomorrow afternoon. The bill will need a 75% vote to pass.

**Please ask your Senator to vote FOR SB 211. Also, please begin discussing support for SB 211 with your State Representatives.**

This bill is an important step to make Arkansas's tax structure more competitive and attractive for investment and job growth. Its revenue impact will be about \$97 million annually after fully implemented.

On January 1, 2020, the plan would simplify the brackets for those above \$80,000 in income from six to three, with the top rate falling from 6.9 percent to 6.6 percent. Then, on January 1, 2021, the top rate would be reduced from 6.6 percent to 5.9 percent. At the same time, the top rate on the middle rate schedule, for those between \$22,200 and around \$80,000 in income, would drop from 6 percent to 5.9 percent, to match the top table.

## THIS WEEK AT THE CAPITOL

### SCIENCE OF READING LITERACY

**SB 153** by Sen. Jane English and Rep. Sonia Barker was adopted unanimously by the Senate last week and is on tomorrow's agenda in the House Education Committee. The bill would require public school districts and open-enrollment public charter schools to include a literacy plan in the school-level improvement plan that complies with established standards and incorporates an approved list of sources to be identified by 2020.

The State Chamber/AIA supports this bill and endorses it as its own bill. Please ask your State Representative to vote FOR SB 153.

### GOVERNMENT TRANSFORMATION

**HB 1360 and HB 1361** by Rep. Andy Davis and Sen. Bart Hester were filed Friday. **HB 1360** establishes the Department of Finance and Administration as a cabinet-level Department. **HB 1361** establishes the Department of Education as a cabinet-level Department.

By our count, this brings the number of transformation bills to 15 and the total is expected to be 16 bills. The plan remains to present each of the 16 bills in House and Senate Committees, then pull them all and merge them into one big bill. The estimate of the single bill is now up to 2,000 pages.

Here's a link to brief summaries of all 15 bills. [https://arkansasstatechamber-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/p/khall/ETAw039\\_2O9PvgOQyQjrCkMB0Nf01mII5mW98c9LKR1QSg?e=scfCm0](https://arkansasstatechamber-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/p/khall/ETAw039_2O9PvgOQyQjrCkMB0Nf01mII5mW98c9LKR1QSg?e=scfCm0)

## LICENSING AND REGULATION BILLS

**SB 171** and **SB 175** by Sen. John Cooper are expected to be considered this afternoon in the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee.

**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.

Here's a quick review of some of the bills related to occupational licensing:

**HB 1301** by Rep. Bruce Cozart would require professional licensing boards and other entities to adopt the least restrictive requirements for reciprocal licensing of persons who hold relevant licenses in other states, through issuance of temporary one-year licenses. It would also allow for occupational licensing entities to grant one-year temporary licenses if the individual holds previous or current licensing in another state. It awaits consideration by the House Public Health Committee.

**HB 1303** by Rep. Bruce Cozart would create a basis for occupational licensing entities to waive a person's disqualification or revocation of licensure when based on a criminal background check. Requires occupational education programs to establish criteria for checks. It provides that former criminal convictions may be waived in the consideration of revoking or issuing an occupational license when requested by the applicant or individual with a license subject to revocation. It also outlines, without limitation, the criteria for consideration when waiving a criminal offense in order to waive revocation of an occupational license. Finally, it would require all applicants for any occupational licensure to undergo state and federal background checks, but allows for occupational licensing entities to establish criteria for related requirements. It awaits consideration in the House Public Health Committee.

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

**SB 178** by Sen. Trent Garner, which addresses athletic trainers, is on today's agenda in the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee.

Other bills include:

**SB 172**-Social Workers, **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.

If you see any bill that impacts your business, please review it and let me know if you have concerns or see anything that might need to be amended.

## PROCUREMENT RULES

All but one of the handful of bills related to procurement laws are 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 an existing state contract under which poor material performance has been demonstrated from submitting additional bids.

**HB 1178** by Rep. Jeff Wardlaw and Sen. Scott Flippo is on today's House Calendar to adopt an amendment. As originally filed, it would require 90 days, rather than 30 days' notice for inviting bids before opening competitive bidding. It would also authorize time discounts only in certain circumstances, provide procedures for the Office of Procurement in evaluating, entering and rejecting bids. Finally, it would require the State Procurement Director to enhance training on drafting of specifications for procures and that the Director maintain records of bids that are rejected by the office for failure to follow mandatory requirements of solicitation.

## **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**

The House filed two bills Friday to bring their total to 361 bills. Senators filed nine bills Friday and their total is now 248 bills. We added two bills to our tracking and are now tracking 162 bills and resolutions.

Click this link to see the new bills added to our tracking: <https://arkansasstatechamber-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/p/khall/EQVNOI1bwBZDi3UYqKk0erMBe94qOoheK9DUUp55kr0ssgQ?e=wMKCEX>

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](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/EaL12Jp74lNJs5oLpIGDXw8BMAKxeaisr7hcr0VSIIEIFRg?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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