



Daily Legislative Update

92nd General Assembly

Thursday, February 7, 2019 – Session Day 25

TODAY AT THE CAPITOL

The House will convene at 11:00 a.m. this morning and the Senate at 1:00 p.m. this afternoon.
Legislative Calendar: www.arkleg.state.ar.us

* * * CALLS TO ACTION * * *

VOCATIONAL AREA FUNDING

SB 135 by Sen. Kim Hammer and Rep. Bruce Cozart seeks to change funding for secondary vocational area centers from a per-student multiplier of \$3,250 to a tiered funding structure. It also sets forth requirements for the Department of Career Education to promulgate rules for the tiered funding structure distributing aid for each full-time equivalent student. This bill is on this afternoon's Senate Calendar. We support this bill. Please ask you Senator to **vote FOR SB 135**.

TAX REDUCTIONS

SB 211 by Sen. Jonathan Dismang and Rep. Joe Jett, the Governor's plan for reducing income taxes, was approved by the Senate yesterday afternoon by vote of 28 yes, five no and two not voting. A 75% majority (27 votes) was needed to pass. It has been assigned to the House Revenue & Taxation Committee, which will meet next Tuesday morning. Please ask your State Representative to **vote FOR SB 211**.

SCIENCE OF READING LITERACY

SB 153 by Sen. Jane English and Rep. Sonia Barker is on this morning's House Calendar. 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**.

NIGHT SKY PROTECTION

HB 1309 by Rep. Stephen Meeks is on this mornings' agenda in the House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee. It would create the Nighttime Environment Protection Act to regulate outdoor night lighting fixtures. It would also establish cost and other considerations for a state agency, public corporation, county, or municipality to use public funds to operate, maintain, install, or cause to be installed shielded outdoor lighting a new or replacement outdoor lighting fixture. We oppose this bill.

TEACHER PAY INCREASE

HB 1145 by Rep. Bruce Cozart is on this morning's House Calendar. It creates the Teacher Salary Enhancement Act, which increases the amounts of teachers' compensation based on education level

and experience for 2019-2021 and extends the pay increases from 2022-2023.

ACTIVE BILLS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SB 226 by Sen. Mat Pitsch is on this morning's agenda in the House Revenue & Taxation Committee. This bill makes changes to the income tax credit for donations or sales of machinery and equipment to certain educational institutions. Specifically it makes provisions for cash donations for the purchase of new machinery or equipment.

SB 225 by Sen. Mat Pitsch and Rep. Carlton Wing was approved by the Senate yesterday 34 to 0 and has been assigned to the House Agriculture, Forestry & Economic Development Committee. This bill seeks to make various changes to the operations of the Arkansas Economic Development Council and Arkansas Economic Development Commission, including assistance to rural communities and agencies, support of women-owned and minority-owned businesses, etc. It would authorize the council to dissolve committees and subcommittees as needed.

SB 196 by Sen. Mat Pitsch and Rep. Robin Lundstrum was approved by the Senate yesterday 34 to 0 and has been assigned to the House Revenue & Taxation Committee. This bill seeks to define the location of opportunity zones, for the purpose of computing Arkansas income tax liability, as a population census tract that is designated in federal law as a qualified opportunity zone as of January 1, 2019.

SB 151 By Sen. Missy Irvin, Rep. Michelle Gray and others awaits consideration in the House Public Health Welfare and Labor Committee. This bill creates the UAMS National Cancer Institute Designation Fund to be funded by private grants and other sources and used by the Rockefeller Cancer Institute at UAMS to achieve and maintain status as a National Cancer Institute (NCI)-Designated Cancer Center. It suggests the recruitment of an expert cancer researcher, nationally recognized medical professionals and a stream of funding between \$10-\$20 million to achieve the NCI status. The bill sunsets by 2027 if NCI status has not been achieved.

LICENSING AND REGULATION

These bills are on committee agendas today:

HB1255 Rep. Jim Dotson & Sen. Bart Hester - Expedited Licensing/Permits

HB1301 Rep. Bruce Cozart – Expedited Licensing/Permits

HB1302 Rep. Bruce Cozart – Collective Rule Making

A brief summary and the most recent three actions in the Legislature on all licensing and regulation bills can be viewed by clicking this link: https://arkansasstatechamber-my.sharepoint.com/:w/p/khall/EVASdiODt5NDgAgIXF9z0NkBZ0Y_99fLbxCfbAsnmonu6w?e=jwmVeJ

BILLS TO WATCH

COVENANTS TO NOT COMPETE

HB 1068 by Rep. Brian Evans and Sen. Ricky Hill has been put on the deferred list in the House Insurance and Commerce Committee. The sponsors are working on an amendment with the Bureau of Legislative Research.

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 17 bills yesterday, bringing their total to 405 bills. Senators filed 10 bills yesterday and their total is now 277 bills. Our tracking list will be updated in tomorrow's report.

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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