



Daily Legislative Update

92nd General Assembly

Friday, February 8, 2019 – Session Day 26

TODAY AT THE CAPITOL

The House and Senate are in recess until Monday afternoon.

Legislative Calendar: www.arkleg.state.ar.us

* * * **CALLS TO ACTION** * * *

TAX REDUCTIONS

SB 211 by Sen. Jonathan Dismang and Rep. Joe Jett, the Governor's plan for reducing income taxes, is expected to be considered next Tuesday by the House Revenue & Taxation Committee. A group of Representatives are not ready to commit to this bill until a highway plan is developed. Another group would like to add an earned income tax credit for low wage earners.

Please ask your State Representative to vote FOR SB 211.

HIGHWAYS

A top issue for the Governor, the General Assembly and the state in this session is a highway maintenance plan. As the tax cut plan moves into the House next week, a group of Representatives are currently unwilling to support the tax cut plan until a highway plan is developed. Meanwhile, a coalition that we are part of sent a letter to the General Assembly on Wednesday, emphasizing the importance of maintaining our highways. You can read this letter by clicking this link:

<https://www.arkansasstatechamber.com/news-publications/news-releases/arkansas-roads-and-bridges-funding-coalition-issues-open-letter-to-general-assembly/>

Please discuss the important of a highway plan with your legislators this weekend.

VOCATIONAL AREA FUNDING

SB 135 by Sen. Kim Hammer and Rep. Bruce Cozart passed in the Senate yesterday by a vote of 31 to 3. It 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. **We support this bill. Please ask you State Representative to vote FOR SB 135.**

YESTERDAY AT THE CAPITOL

SCIENCE OF READING LITERACY

SB 153 by Sen. Jane English and Rep. Sonia Barker was approved by the House yesterday morning by a vote of 91 to 0. This bill will 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.

If you asked your State Senator and/or State Representative to vote for SB 153, please tell them thank you.

TEACHER PAY INCREASE

HB 1145 by Rep. Bruce Cozart is the Governor's bill to increase teacher pay. It was approved yesterday morning by the House 91 to 0. 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. We support this bill.

ACTIVE BILLS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BILLS WE SUPPORT

SB 226 by Sen. Mat Pitsch awaits consideration 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 awaits consideration in 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. Keith Ingram and Rep. Robin Lundstrum awaits consideration in 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.

BILLS WE OPPOSE

FOIA EXPANSION

SB 231 by Sen. Kim Hammer seeks to redefine public records and the Freedom of Information Act to extend to a private entity expending a minimum of 20 percent of its time, resources and efforts in support of a government entity.

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.

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.

BILLS TO WATCH

LOCAL ZONING

SB 170 by Sen. Bart Hester and Rep. Bruce Cozart seeks to place restrictions on counties and municipalities regarding residential building design regulations in designated locations, subject to safety codes or other state or federal laws. The bill was approved in the Senate Wednesday by a vote of 23 to 11. The sponsor told the Senate the Municipal League is working on an amendment that can be considered in the House.

LICENSING AND REGULATION

HB 1060 by Rep. Roger Lynch would implement requirements for continuing education for heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration licensees, providing that all applications after July 1, 2020 must be accompanied by proof of completion of mandated courses. It would charge the HVACR Licensing Board with establishing the continuing education program and promulgating rules and guidelines for its administration by Dec. 31, 2019. This is an industry supported bill.

TRACKED LICENSING & REGULATION BILLS

A brief summary and the five most recent actions in the Legislature on all the licensing and regulation bills we are tracking can be viewed by clicking this link: https://arkansasstatechamber-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/p/khall/EWT_KNL-WfBGvoArCuc5JVIBdQWGg8Uc70JwQn5sBHFR5g?e=prbtKo

NON COMPETE CLAUSE

HB 1068 by Rep. Brian Evans and Sen. Ricky Hill remains on the deferred list in the House Insurance and Commerce Committee while the sponsors work on an amendment.

STATE CHAMBER/AIA TRACKED BILLS

The House filed 17 bills on Wednesday and 12 bills yesterday, bringing their total to 417 bills. Senators filed ten bills on Wednesday and nine yesterday and their total is now 286 bills. From Wednesday and Thursday's filings we added 21 bills to our tracking. We are now tracking 203 bills and resolutions.

New bills added to our tracking: https://arkansasstatechamber-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/p/khall/Eb1X5Wmwwr1CtYA-EnW0NyABFCfbS_s-CQ3GUEGBsxEjBA?e=FyvUZC

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/>

State Chamber/AIA Governmental Affairs Team:

Randy Zook, President/CEO:
rzook@arkansasstatechamber.com

Kenny Hall, Executive Vice President:
khall@arkansasstatechamber.com

Andrew Parker, Director of Governmental Affairs:
aparker@arkansasstatechamber.com

Toni Lindsey, Director of Governmental Affairs:
tlindsey@arkansasstatechamber.com

State Chamber/AIA phone: (501) 372-2222

State Chamber/AIA web site: www.arkansasstatechamber.com

To unsubscribe to *Daily Legislative Updates*, please e-mail Deb Mathis at dmathis@arkansasstatechamber.com and write "unsubscribe" in the subject box.

The Daily Legislative Update is written by Kenny Hall, reviewed by Randy Zook, then edited and distributed by Jeff Thatcher.



1200 W. Capitol Ave., P.O. Box 3645
Little Rock, AR 72203-3645

501-372-2222
FAX 372-2722
