



Daily Legislative Update
92nd General Assembly
Monday, February 11, 2019 – Session Day 29

TODAY AT THE CAPITOL

The Senate will convene at 1 p.m. and the House at 1:30 p.m. this afternoon.

Governor Hutchinson will host a press conference at 11:00 a.m. this morning in the Governor's Conference Room at the Capitol.

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

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

TAX REDUCTIONS & HIGHWAYS

SB 211 by Sen. Jonathan Dismang and Rep. Joe Jett is the Governor's plan for reducing income taxes. It is expected to be considered tomorrow in the House Revenue & Taxation Committee.

A group of Representatives are not ready to commit to **SB 211** until a highway plan is developed. Another group would like to add an earned income tax credit for low wage earners. Governor Hutchinson will hold a press conference at 11 a.m. this morning to discuss a plan for highway maintenance.

House Revenue & Taxation Committee Chairman, Rep. Joe Jett, spoke with Talk Business & Politics about a highway plan this weekend. Here's a link to the story:

<https://talkbusiness.net/2019/02/house-tax-panel-chair-clarifies-highway-funding-streams-senate-minority-leader-says-dark-money-bill-likely/>

The State Chamber/AIA supports SB 211, please ask your State Representative to vote FOR SB 211.

The State Chamber/AIA also supports development of a highway plan and are part of a coalition that released a letter last week in support of a "meaningful" increase in highway funding. Here's a link to last Wednesday's Talk Business & Politics story about the letter: <https://talkbusiness.net/2019/02/coalition-asks-legislators-for-more-highway-funding/>

VOCATIONAL AREA FUNDING

SB 135 by Sen. Kim Hammer and Rep. Bruce Cozart is on tomorrow's agenda in the House Education Committee. 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. Please ask your State Representative to **vote FOR SB 135.**

BILLS WE SUPPORT

TEACHER PAY INCREASE

HB 1145 by Rep. Bruce Cozart is the Governor's bill to increase teacher pay. It awaits consideration in the Senate Education Committee. 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.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BILLS

SB 226 by Sen. Mat Pitsch is on tomorrow'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 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 is on tomorrow's agenda 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 is on tomorrow's agenda 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.

SCIENCE OF READING LITERACY

SB 153 by Sen. Jane English and Rep. Sonia Barker awaits the Governor's signature. 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.

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. It is on tomorrow's agenda in the Senate State Agencies Committee.

NIGHT SKY PROTECTION

HB 1309 by Rep. Stephen Meeks is on tomorrow's 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 in new or replacement outdoor lighting fixtures.

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. During the Senate presentation of the bill, the sponsor said 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.

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

Only one bill each was filed in the House and Senate on Friday. House members have now filed 418 bills, while Senators have filed 287 bills. We added one bill to our tracking, which brings our total to 204 bills and resolutions.

HB 1418 by Rep. Tippi McCullough was filed Friday. It seeks to create the Working Families Tax Relief Act, creating an income tax credit of 10 percent of an individual's federal Earned Income Tax Credit. It would require DFA to annually notify taxpayers of their potential eligibility for the credit. If the amount of income tax credit exceeds the taxpayer's income tax liability, the excess will be refunded to the taxpayer.

All bills we are tracking are posted on our website, by category, and can be reviewed by clicking 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://www.arkansasstatechamber.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/AR-StateChamberAIA-2019-Legislative-Agenda.pdf>

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/>

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