



## Daily Legislative Update

91st General Assembly

Thursday, January 12, 2017 – Day 4

### TODAY AT THE CAPITOL

“A” Committees in the House: Health, Education, Judiciary, Tax and Transportation will meet at 9 a.m. for organizational purposes. Joint Budget will meet at 9 a.m. Senate State Agencies will meet at 9 a.m. The House will convene at 10 a.m. and the Senate at 10:30 a.m. The General Assembly will recess after tomorrow and return on Tuesday, January 17.

To view today’s schedules, committee agenda’s and other information related to the Session visit: [www.arkleg.state.ar.us](http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us).

### YESTERDAY AT THE CAPITOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

“B” Committees: Aging/Children/Youth, Agriculture, City/County/Local, Insurance & Commerce and State Agencies met for organizational purposes.

### MARIJUANA

**HB 1026 and HB 1058**, by Rep. Douglas House, R-North Little Rock, received Do Pass recommendations from the House Rules Committee on unanimous votes. These bills seek a delay in the effective dates of the medical marijuana program and to remove a requirement that doctors recommending the drug say benefits outweigh its risk.

HB 1026 would give agencies until May, rather than March, to adopt the laws governing the program. It also pushes the deadline back a month for Arkansas to begin accepting dispensary and cultivation facility applications, from June 1 to July 1.

HB 1058 strikes a line in the amendment saying physicians who prescribe marijuana will do so to patients for whom the “potential benefits” likely “outweigh the health risks.” It also states a medical marijuana user’s registry identification card should not be a medical record.

Speaking in support of HB 1058, House said there are no consistent recommendations medical professionals turn to when deciding if a patient should be prescribed marijuana. House noted that there is a wide range of opinions, that vary from strict moderation to “start smoking til you feel better.”

## HOUSE COMMITTEES

**HR 1001**, by Rep. Jeremy Gillam, R-Judsonia, produced a lengthy and spirited debate in the House yesterday afternoon. This resolution, which was eventually adopted by a 75-yes, 23-no, 1-present vote, makes two changes to the Rules of the House of Representatives:

1. Allows the Speaker of the House to appoint and confirm all representatives to committees taking into consideration the political composition and the geographic diversity of the House; the skills, expertise, personal preferences and seniority of individual appointees. The Speaker will consult with the minority and majority party leadership before making such appointments.
  - a. Arkansas becomes the 45<sup>th</sup> state to make committee appointments in this manner.
2. Allows fundraising during Fiscal Sessions, which occur during election years.

## STATE CHAMBER/AIA LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

Please join us for our Annual Legislative Reception next Tuesday, January 17, from 4:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., under the big tent in our north parking lot at 1200 W. Capitol Ave. in Little Rock. State legislators, constitutional officers, state officials, State Chamber/AIA member representatives, Leadership Arkansas alumni and others will attend.

**The State Chamber/AIA Legislative Reception is presented by:**

**Arkansas Learns**

**Cox Communications**

**Southland Park Gaming and Racing**

**Stephens Inc.**

## STATE CHAMBER/AIA TRACKED BILLS

As of yesterday, the House had filed 159 bills and the Senate 115 bills. We added seven bills to our tracking and are now tracking 57 bills.

To view a list of bills added to our tracking yesterday click: [here](#).

Our entire list of tracked bills are posted on our website by category, which you can access by clicking [here](#).

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION INFORMATION AND MESSAGE CENTER

To view schedules, calendars, bill information and legislator information, visit: [www.arkleg.state.ar.us](http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us).

House of Representatives: 501-682-6211

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