Regular Session Adjourned Sine Die
Yesterday, the House and Senate both adjourned the 91st General Assembly Regular Session Sine Die.

Special Session Convened
Shortly after adjourning the Regular Session, both Chambers convened the First Extraordinary Session of the 91st General Assembly.

Five bills were filed in the House and Senate yesterday. The five bills were mirrored in each Chamber and sponsored by the Speaker Jeremy Gillam, R-Judsonia, and Senate President Pro Tem Jonathan Dismang, R-Beebe. Those bills are:

HB 1001/SB 1 would make technical corrections and incorporate three Acts of 2017 that pertain to ethics laws into Article 19 of the Arkansas Constitution.


HB 1003/SB 3 would require the Department of Human Services to submit a state plan that seeks a federal waiver to amend the benefits of the Arkansas Works program by establishing a work requirement, reducing income-based eligibility and other changes.

HB 1004/SB 4 seek to prohibit the Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace from developing technology for a state-based marketplace platform and dissolve the current marketplace oversight committee, placing oversight and study authority with the Legislative Council.

HB 1005 and SB 5 seek to move $105 million from the Health Century Trust Fund (Tobacco Settlement) to an account for long-term reserve funding.

Yesterday at the Capitol
The Joint Budget Committee met first, but did not pass HB 1005/SB 5.

TODAY AT THE CAPITOL
The Joint Budget Committee began meeting at 9 a.m. this morning. The Senate was scheduled to convene at 9 a.m. and the House at 10 a.m., but the Joint Budget Committee is in a lengthy reconsideration of SB 5/HB 1005 this morning.

The debate on HB 1005 and SB 5, which seeks to move $105 million from the Health Century Trust Fund (Tobacco Settlement) to an account for long-term reserve funding, is centered around the vote requirement to approve spending. Normal appropriation bills require a two-thirds majority. Funds spent out of the long-term reserve fund would only require a simple majority. Amendments to HB1005/SB 5 are being considered that would increase the vote requirement to spend funds out of the long-term reserve fund to two-thirds.

When the House and Senate convene today, they will consider SB 1/HB 1001, SB 2/HB 1002, SB 3/HB 1003 and SB 4/HB 1004. Rules have been suspended, which would also allow them to consider SB 5/HB 1005 if approved by the Joint Budget Committee.

TOMORROW AT THE CAPITOL
Bills that pass the House and Senate today will go to the opposite Chamber tomorrow for committee consideration and then a floor vote in each Chamber. The plan is to complete the Special Session tomorrow.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION INFORMATION AND MESSAGE CENTER
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