



## Daily Legislative Update

91st General Assembly Fiscal Session

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

### GOVERNOR'S STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

Governor Asa Hutchinson opened the 91<sup>st</sup> Arkansas General Assembly's Fiscal Session yesterday with his annual State of the State address.

The Governor yesterday called for a reduction of the state's top individual income tax bracket from 6.9 percent to 6 percent. In his remarks he did not mention the revenue impact of this reduction. But *Talk Business & Politics* is reporting that members of the Joint Budget Committee said it would reduce state revenue by about \$180 million if the reduction went into effect all at once. Also, the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) estimates that 162,000 Arkansans would be eligible for the top tier reduction.

The Governor emphasized the need to maintain state services, education, public safety and maintain economic protections for struggling citizens, while implementing the tax cuts to improve the state's competitiveness and create economic growth. The Governor said his proposed budget's emphasis on improving government efficiency and reducing the size of government will support a tax reduction without threatening education, healthcare and other safety net programs. The Governor said his budget projects a surplus of \$64 million of which \$16 million would go to highways and \$48 million would go into a restricted reserve fund.

The Governor spoke about the soon-to-be-announced working group that will study and work to reduce government regulations. This is the Occupational Licensing and Regulations Task Force that we wrote about yesterday.

Addressing the insufficient reimbursement for pharmacists in rural communities was also mentioned by the Governor and resolutions were filed yesterday seeking authority to file bills that would address this issue.

Governor Hutchinson also spoke about the importance of agriculture in Arkansas and the need to expand trade opportunities. He also touted tourism as an attraction that can improve economic growth. He also spoke about the importance of reading, specifically

the importance of reading at grade level. This is an issue that we have been touting for some time.

### STATE CHAMBER/AIA TRACKED BILLS

There have been discussions about multiple issues being either added to the Fiscal Session or possibly being addressed in a Special Session after the Fiscal Session. The issues deal with rural pharmacies, open carry training, operation of ATVs on public roads, open containers in vehicles, border-city-affiliated pediatric teaching hospitals and school choice. Resolutions addressing these issues were filed yesterday and we've added all of them to our tracking. To be considered, each would have to receive a two-thirds majority vote of the House and Senate before a bill could be filed addressing the issue. Yesterday was the deadline to file these types of Resolutions. Here's a list of the bills.

<a href="#">HR 1002</a>	<a href="#">Sullivan, Dan(R)</a>	Authorizes Representative Miller to introduce a non-appropriation bill to freeze new enrollment in the Arkansas Works Program on July 15, 2018.
<b>Companions:</b>	<a href="#">SR 3</a>	Stubblefield, Gary (Same As) 2-12-18 S Introduced and referred to calendar
<b>Bill History:</b>	02-12-18 H Introduced and referred to H-Rules	

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<a href="#">HR 1006</a>	<a href="#">Ballinger, Bob(R)</a>	Authorizes Rep. Ballinger to introduce a bill that allows concealed carry course instructors to offer a regular course without also offering the enhanced training course that is required for a full concealed carry endorsement.
<b>Companions:</b>	<a href="#">SR 4</a>	Garner, Trent (Same As) 2-12-18 S Introduced and referred to calendar
<b>Bill History:</b>	02-12-18 H Introduced and referred to H-Rules	

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<a href="#">HR 1007</a>	<a href="#">Pitsch, Mat(R)</a>	Authorizes Sen. Sample to introduce a non-appropriation bill further defining "alcoholic beverages" for the violation of possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle. Amends the areas of a motor vehicle in which a container may be stored.
<b>Companions:</b>	<a href="#">SR 5</a>	Sample, Bill (Same As) 2-12-18 S Introduced and referred to calendar

**Bill History:** 02-12-18 H Introduced and referred to H-Rules

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[HR 1008](#)

[Maddox, John\(R\)](#)

Authorizes Rep. Maddox to introduce a non-appropriation bill concerning the defenses to prosecution for a violation or operating an all-terrain vehicle from private property to another property via a public street or highway.

**Companions:**

[SR 6](#) Teague, Larry (Same As)  
2-13-18 S Placed on the Senate calendar

**Bill History:** 02-12-18 H Introduced and referred to H-Rules

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[HR 1010](#)

[Gray, Michelle\(R\)](#)

Authorizes Sen. Ingram to introduce a non-appropriation bill States that border city university-affiliated pediatric teaching hospitals do not fall under exemptions from the assessment fee levied on hospitals.

**Companions:**

[SR 8](#) Ingram, Keith (Same As)  
2-12-18 S Introduced and referred to calendar

**Bill History:** 02-12-18 H Introduced and referred to H-Rules

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[HR 1011](#)

[Gray, Michelle\(R\)](#)

Authorizes Sen. Caldwell to introduce a non-appropriation bill establishing the Arkansas Pharmacy Benefits Manager Licensure Act.

**Companions:**

[SR 9](#) Caldwell, Ronald (Same As)  
2-12-18 S Introduced and referred to calendar

**Bill History:** 02-12-18 H Introduced and referred to H-Rules

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[HR 1012](#)

[Leding, Greg\(D\)](#)

Authorizes Sen. Bond to introduce a non-appropriation bill prohibiting the carrying or possession of a handgun in a nonpublic student dormitory room of a college or university.

**Companions:**

[SR 10](#) Bond, Will (Same As)  
2-12-18 S Introduced and referred to calendar

**Bill History:** 02-12-18 H Introduced and referred to H-Rules

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[SR 3](#)

[Stubblefield, Gary\(R\)](#)

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**Companions:** [HR 1002](#) Sullivan, Dan (Same As)  
2-12-18 H Introduced and referred to H-Rules

**Bill History:** 02-12-18 S Introduced and referred to calendar

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[SR 4](#)

[Garner, Trent\(R\)](#)

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**Companions:** [HR 1006](#) Ballinger, Bob (Same As)  
2-12-18 H Introduced and referred to H-Rules

**Bill History:** 02-12-18 S Introduced and referred to calendar

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[SR 5](#)

[Sample, Bill\(R\)](#)

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**Companions:** [HR 1007](#) Pitsch, Mat (Same As)  
2-12-18 H Introduced and referred to H-Rules

**Bill History:** 02-12-18 S Introduced and referred to calendar

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[SR 6](#)

[Teague, Larry\(D\)](#)

Authorizes Rep. Maddox to introduce a non-appropriation bill concerning the defenses to prosecution for a violation or operating an all-terrain vehicle from private property to another property via a public street or highway.

**Companions:** [HR 1008](#) Maddox, John (Same As)

		2-12-18 H Introduced and referred to H-Rules
	<b>Bill History:</b>	02-13-18 S Placed on the Senate calendar
<a href="#">SR 8</a>	<a href="#">Ingram, Keith(D)</a>	Authorizes Sen. Ingram to introduce a non-appropriation bill States that border city university-affiliated pediatric teaching hospitals do not fall under exemptions from the assessment fee levied on hospitals.
	<b>Companions:</b>	<a href="#">HR 1010</a> Gray, Michelle (Same As) 2-12-18 H Introduced and referred to H-Rules
	<b>Bill History:</b>	02-12-18 S Introduced and referred to calendar
<a href="#">SR 9</a>	<a href="#">Caldwell, Ronald(R)</a>	Authorizes Sen. Caldwell to introduce a non-appropriation bill establishing the Arkansas Pharmacy Benefits Manager Licensure Act.
	<b>Companions:</b>	<a href="#">HR 1011</a> Gray, Michelle (Same As) 2-12-18 H Introduced and referred to H-Rules
	<b>Bill History:</b>	02-12-18 S Introduced and referred to calendar
<a href="#">SR 10</a>	<a href="#">Bond, Will(D)</a>	Authorizes Sen. Bond to introduce a non-appropriation bill prohibiting the carrying or possession of a handgun in a nonpublic student dormitory room of a college or university.
	<b>Companions:</b>	<a href="#">HR 1012</a> Leding, Greg (Same As) 2-12-18 H Introduced and referred to H-Rules
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## STATE CHAMBER/AIA LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

The State Chamber/AIA Annual Legislative Reception will be held from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20th under the big tent in our north parking lot.

This is an opportunity to network and visit with members of the Arkansas General Assembly, elected Constitutional officers, state agency personnel and State Chamber/AIA members. Please join us!

## **LEGISLATIVE SESSION INFORMATION**

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

### **Legislative Message Center**

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