



Daily Legislative Update

92nd General Assembly

Friday, January 25, 2019 – Session Day 12

TODAY AT THE CAPITOL

The General Assembly is in recess until Monday. The Senate will convene at 1 p.m. and the House at 1:30 p.m. Monday afternoon.

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

RED TAPE REDUCTION WORKING GROUP

The Occupational Licensing Advisory Group (OLAG) to the Red Tape Reduction Working Group (RTRWG) will meet at 1 p.m. this afternoon at the Arkansas Real Estate Commission. The RTRWG met Wednesday afternoon and discussed some draft bills. Eight bills were filed yesterday related to licensing. The OLAG has drafts of approximately five bills that are pending.

We will participate in today's meeting and continue to provide as much information as possible.

Here's a link to all filed bills that we've found: https://arkansasstatechamber-my.sharepoint.com/:w/p/khall/EYp19IVF4x1FvwmrTYRzdzUBLLbJFP9Nw_TGPoKtZPaNxA?e=PD6WuI

YESTERDAY AT THE CAPITOL

COVENANTS NOT TO COMPETE

We met yesterday with the sponsors of **HB 1068**, Rep. Brian Evans and Sen. Ricky Hill. They were gracious enough to meet with us and discuss their goals for this legislation. We agreed to do some more research and see if there is a way to address their concerns without repealing all the statutory law related to covenants not to compete. The bill will become inactive until we can get back together and discuss any identified options.

EDUCATION

Sen. Jane English advanced three education related bills out of the Senate yesterday.

SB 56 is a bill she is carrying for Governor Hutchinson that would change the composition of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board by eliminating three positions for current or recent board members of colleges or universities and adding three positions for members from business, industry and education, etc.

SB 96 seeks to repeal the Housing Construction Programs created for state-supported technical institutes. Sen. English told the Senate that this fund is empty and hasn't been used in a while.

SB 108 would repeal the annual evaluation of vocational-technical courses by the Legislative Council, the House and Senate Committees on Education.

FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

SJR 3 by Sen. Gary Stubblefield, calls for a convention of the states, under the provisions of Article V of the U.S. Constitution, that would be limited to proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution that would impose fiscal restraints, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit terms of U.S. Congressmen. It requires that at least two-thirds of state legislatures make applications on the same subject, in accordance with Article V of the U.S. Constitution. This bill received a Do Pass recommendation yesterday from the Senate State Agencies Committee.

BILLS WE ARE WORKING ON

MINIMUM WAGE

We have a group of members and attorneys working on this issue and are in contact with a sponsor of **SB 115**. We hope to have a draft bill or amendment to SB 115 in a few days.

If you have identified the impact of the minimum wage increase to your business, please send us a written report. These will be very helpful as we discuss potential legislation to mitigate the impact of the minimum wage increase with legislators.

Earlier this month our President & CEO, Randy Zook, published an op-ed in *Arkansas Money & Politics* titled ***The False Promise of Minimum Wage***. Here's a link to the article on our website: <https://www.arkansasstatechamber.com/news-publications/news-releases/the-false-promise-of-minimum-wage/>

SB 115, by Sen. Bob Ballinger and Rep. Frances Cavanaugh, would create an exemption to the Minimum Wage Act for employers with fewer than 50 employees, employers that are schools or institutions of higher education and 501(c)(3) nonprofits.

BILLS TO WATCH

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.

BILL FILING DEADLINE ELIMINATION

SCR 1 contains the language for the House and Senate's Joint Rules for the 92nd General Assembly, which includes the provision to strike the bill filing deadline. **SCR 1** awaits consideration in the House Rules Committee.

BILLS OF INTEREST

PROCUREMENT RULES

A handful of bills related to procurement laws were filed and have now moved out of House committee. If this issue is of interest to you, click the link below to Thursday's report in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette:

<https://arkansasstatechamber-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/p/khall/EUINORaTG3pDvfXf3TZsP2EBwiwGrcUBxqo7T6kki1Ywgg?e=MedmkU>

STATE CHAMBER/AIA TRACKED BILLS

The House has now filed 257 bills and the Senate 169 bills. We added 14 to our tracking and are now tracking 103 bills and resolutions.

New bills added to tracking today can be reviewed by clicking this link:

<https://arkansasstatechamber-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/p/khall/Eb0gcDbBIBBJq0kEpnclgTwBunPELjINF1vangEjaxpczQ?e=xVYZwz>

All bills we are tracking are posted on our website by category, click this link:

<https://www.arkansasstatechamber.com/governmental-affairs/legislative-tracking/>

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 8-10 | 60TH WASHINGTON FLY-IN

Our 60th Annual Washington Fly-in and Congressional Dinner is set for May 8 – 10, 2019. Please make plans to join us. For information on the planned events, to register or learn about sponsorship opportunities, click <https://www.arkansasstatechamber.com/news-publications/news-releases/save-the-date-60th-annual-washington-fly-in-congressional-dinner-may-8-10/>

Thank you to the following sponsors:

Aerojet Rocketdyne, AEP-SWEPCO, Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, Entergy Arkansas, Nabholz Construction Services, Southwest Power Pool and Walmart.

If your company or organization would like to help sponsor the Washington Fly-In & Congressional Dinner, please contact Bill Watson at bwatson@arkansasstatechamber.com or 501-802-1740.



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/EaL12Jp74INJs5oLpIGDXw8BMAKxeaisr7hcr0VSIEIFRg?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/>

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