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## 93rd General Assembly Monday, April 5, 2021 – Session Day 85

### TODAY AT THE CAPITOL

The House and Senate will convene at 1:00 p.m. today.

#### Committee Meetings

8:30 a.m. – Public Retirement

9:30 a.m. – Senate Tax | House Insurance & Commerce

2:00 p.m. – Senate Health and Judiciary | House Agriculture, Aging and City/County/Local

## **\*\*\* CALL TO ACTION – YOUR CONTACTS ARE IMPORTANT \*\*\***

### **PLEASE ASK YOUR LEGISLATOR TO VOTE YES ON SB622!**

#### **CLASS PROTECTION BILL – State Chamber/AIA Priority Agenda Bill**

Leadership in the Arkansas House and Senate filed **SB622**, a “Class Protection Bill” to **send the message that crimes targeting individuals simply because of who they are will NOT be tolerated in our state.** As you know, we are one of only three states in the country without a law on the books to ensure justice for crime victims who are targeted because they belong to a certain group or class of individuals. We could easily find ourselves the **ONLY** state in the nation without a similar law on the books. **We CANNOT let that happen.**

**Please reach out to your legislator, as well as members of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, letting them know SB622 is critically important – not just for creating jobs, but retaining the ones we have.** Please let them know this measure is important to you and your community. Our employees deserve to know their state values equity and inclusion, and that diverse groups throughout Arkansas are both valued and protected under the law.

*This bill will be considered this afternoon by the Senate Judiciary Committee.*

**Ask your Senator to Vote Yes on SB 622 - It's important to business and our state.**

### **PLEASE ASK YOUR SENATOR TO VOTE YES ON SB 530**

#### **WORKERS' COMPENSATION – State Chamber Priority Agenda Bill**

**SB 530** by Sen. Dave Wallace and Rep. Jack Ladyman addresses the issue of subrogation in workers' compensation cases. The purpose of this bill is to reduce employers' workers comp costs by allowing a recovery of payments made to an employee who was injured while on the job and the injury is caused by someone else.

Workers' comp is obligated to pay its benefits regardless of the employee's ability to seek recovery of those benefits and more from the person that caused the injury. Workers' comp must pay all of the injured workers' medical bills and temporary total disability to

cover a portion of the employee's lost wages and then the injured employee can make a claim against the person who caused the injury. That claim includes the medical bills already paid by workers' comp and all of the lost wages, of which approximately two-thirds was paid by workers' comp.

*This bill is on this afternoon's Senate Calendar to adopt two amendments that remove two sponsors.*

**Ask your Senator to Vote Yes on SB 530 - It's important to business.**

## **TODAY'S BILLS**

### **MODERNIZED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SYSTEM**

**HB 1765** by Rep. Robin Lundstrum would authorize a diversion of a set portion of existing revenue from unemployment insurance (UI) taxes to be spent on modernizing the state's UI computer system. The system dates back to the 1960s and uses Cobol programming. We believe it is important for this system to be upgraded. The bill also sets forth some actions to address fraud issues.

*This bill is on today's Senate Calendar to add Sen. Hammer as a co-sponsor and is on this afternoon's agenda in the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee.*

The State Chamber/AIA supports this bill.

## **TOMORROW'S BILLS**

### **EXTENDED TAX RETURN DEADLINE – State Chamber/AIA Priority Agenda Bill**

**SB 420** by Sen. Jonathan Dismang and Rep. Joe Jett would set the deadline for state income tax returns following application for a federal extension to one month after the federal deadline for tax returns that have been granted a federal extension.

*This bill is on tomorrow's agenda in the House Revenue and Taxation Committee.*

The State Chamber/AIA supports this bill.

### **PUBLIC ROADS IMPROVEMENT TAX CREDIT– State Chamber/AIA Priority Agenda Bill**

**SB 481** by Sen. Jonathan Dismang allows 100 percent of the public roads improvements tax credit to be taken in a single year, instead of limiting it to 50 percent. It also extends the carry-forward period for the credit from three to 10 years.

*This bill is on tomorrow's agenda in the House Revenue and Taxation Committee.*

The State Chamber/AIA supports this bill.

### **PRINTING & MACHINERY SALES TAX EXEMPTION – State Chamber/AIA Priority Agenda Bill**

**HB 1596** by Rep. Joe Jett and Sen. Jonathan Dismang would extend existing sales and use tax exemptions for items sold for resale to include property sold for use in printing and extend the sales tax exemption for certain machinery and equipment to include articles of commerce.

*This bill is on tomorrow's agenda in the House Revenue & Taxation Committee.*

The State Chamber/AIA supports this bill.

### **HIGHWAY REVENUE INTEREST INCOME**

**HB 1782** by Rep. Rick Beck and Sen. Mark Johnson would add workforce development grants in the transportation field to the list of eligible projects for use of highway revenue interest income.

*This bill will be considered tomorrow in the House Public Transportation Committee.*

The State Chamber/AIA supports this bill.

### **PHARMACY BENEFITS MANAGEMENT**

**HB 1804** by Rep. Brian Evans and Sen. Ron Caldwell seeks to make changes to the Arkansas Pharmacy Benefits Manager Licensure Act.

*This bill is on the Senate Insurance and Commerce Committee's agenda tomorrow.*

We oppose this bill because it will shift costs to employers and employees.

### **FIREARMS IN VEHICLES ON BUSINESS PARKING LOTS**

**SB 555** by Sen. Alan Clark seeks to repeal and replace the subsection that prohibits

employers from restricting the storage of firearms inside employees' cars in an employer parking lot. It exempts parking lots owned by the Department of Corrections or an entity contracting with a division of the department to provide work release or post-incarceration housing services. It provides that an employer has the right to prohibit firearms for the following circumstances: a person who is not an employee storing a firearm in an employee's vehicle, having a firearm if the employee is using an employer owned vehicle, the employee is the subject of an active or pending employment disciplinary proceeding, and from bringing a firearm on a parking lot if the premises is being used for residential housing.

*This bill is on this afternoon's House Calendar to adopt an amendment and tomorrow's agenda in the House Judiciary Committee.*

### **RELEASE OF TAXPAYER INFORMATION**

**SB 528** by Sen. Bill Sample would require the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration to provide reports to counties and cities containing data on sales tax rebates and credits awarded for local sales and use tax rebates, and for purchased property used in construction contracts.

*This bill is on this afternoon's Senate Calendar.*

We understand the problems rebates and tax credits are causing local governments and support providing them more information. But we oppose release of taxpayer identities.

### **STATE CHAMBER/AIA BILL TRACKING**

Total Bills Filed: 1492 | New Bills Filed: Senate 0 | House 0

Bills and resolutions added to State Chamber/AIA Tracking: 0 | Total Tracked: 555

To see all tracked bills saved by category, click [here](#).

### **LEGISLATIVE SESSION INFORMATION**

To view schedules, calendars, bill information and legislator information, click [here](#).

To view the statement regarding Capitol access and committee attendance, click [here](#).

### **Legislative Session Message Center**

House of Representatives: 501-682-6211

Senate: 501-682-2902

### **STATE CHAMBER/AIA INFORMATION**

#### **2021 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

To view the State Chamber/AIA's legislative agenda, click [here](#).

### **BILL SCORING**

Floor votes on bills that address issues in our Legislative Agenda and/or are discussed in a Daily Legislative Update are subject to being scored.

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