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93rd General Assembly Monday, April 19, 2021 – Session Day 99

TODAY AT THE CAPITOL

The House and Senate will convene at 1 p.m. this afternoon.

Committee Meetings

9:30 a.m. – Senate Tax | House State Agencies and Insurance/Commerce

10:00 a.m. – House Aging

10:30 a.m. – Senate State Agencies

11:30 a.m. – House Management

*2:00 p.m. – Senate Health and Education | House City/County/Local

*3:00 p.m. – Senate Judiciary

^4:00 p.m. – House Education

**Or upon adjournment, whichever is later.*

^Or upon adjournment of Senate Education.

BILLS ON THE FLOOR TODAY

FUNDING FOR ARHOME

SB 55 by the Joint Budget Committee is the DHS funding appropriation that includes funding for the important ARHOME program. If this bill fails, it will cost the state hundreds of millions of dollars annually in lost federal funding.

This bill is on this afternoon's House Budget Calendar, it needs 75 yes votes to pass.

This bill is critical to the state's budget and conclusion of this session. We support this bill.

INDEXING WEEKS OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

HB1676 by Rep. Austin McCollum seeks to scale back the duration of unemployment compensation benefits in increments as indexed to the current unemployment rate.

This bill is on the House floor today.

We support this concept, but the DWS computer system is running Cobol and using green screens. A new system needs to be in place before attempting a complicated change like this.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION – EMERGENCY RESPONDERS PTSD COMPENSATION

HB 1935 by Rep. Carlton Wing would make emergency responders with qualifying conditions eligible for compensation for PTSD for which a qualifying event was the major cause. It would include EMTs, paramedics, advanced EMTs, firefighters and employees of investigators, law enforcement officers, and other emergency medical service workers with 40 hours of completed curriculum. It defines qualifying events as extraordinarily traumatic bodily injury or death of a person, the serious injury, death, abuse, or exploitation of a minor, an immediate threat to the life of the claimant or another person, or mass casualties. It considers emergency responders employees of their employers for the

purposes of the section and worker's compensation payment. It also limits responders to three claims in their lifetime.

This bill is on today's House Calendar to adopt an amendment.

We oppose this bill.

HIRING FORMER OFFENDERS

HB 1719 by Rep. Robin Lundstrum and Sen. Breanne Davis seeks to create an income tax credit program for businesses that hire qualifying former offenders.

This bill is on this afternoon's House Calendar to adopt an amendment.

This is a good bill.

VACCINE PASSPORTS

SB 615 by Sen. Trent Garner would prohibit state and local authorities from using a vaccine passport as a condition of entry, travel, etc.

This bill is on this afternoon's Senate Calendar.

We could not find a way to amend this bill to make it acceptable.

DATA FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HB 1868 by Rep. Delia Haak seeks to provide data related to sales and use tax revenues generated in a political subdivision that requests the data from DF&A.

This bill is on this afternoon's House Calendar to adopt an amendment.

The amendment was our request, so we support this bill as amended.

EMINENT DOMAIN

SB 334 by Sen. Bob Ballinger and Rep. Justin Gonzales seeks to place restrictions on the use of eminent domain by state agencies.

This bill is on this afternoon's House Calendar.

We oppose this bill.

BILLS ON TODAY'S COMMITTEE AGENDAS

EXTEND MANUFACTURING SALES TAX EXEMPTION TO PRINTING – State Chamber/AIA Priority Agenda Bill

HB 1596 by Rep. Joe Jett and Sen. Jonathan Dismang seeks to extend the existing sales and use tax exemptions for items sold for resale to include property sold for use in printing. It sets the effective date on the first day of the calendar quarter following the effective date of the act.

This bill is on this morning's agenda in the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee.

We support this bill.

TAXABILITY OF NONRESIDENTS WORK IN AND OUT OF ARKANSAS – State Chamber/AIA Priority Agenda Bill

SB 484 by Sen. Jonathan Dismang provides that a nonresident's work performed both inside and outside of the state is taxable only on the portion of the income allocated to work performed in-state. It exempts nonresidents' income if all of the following apply: compensation is paid for duties performed less than 30 days of in-state work in a year, duties were performed in multiple states during the calendar year, the compensation is not paid for duties in the individual's capacity as a professional athlete, entertainer, public figure, or qualified production employee; and either the individual's state or residence provides a similar income tax exemption or does not impose individual income tax.

This bill is on this morning's agenda in the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee.

We support this bill.

EMPLOYER MANDATES – NEW HIRES, PAYROLL, WAGE PAYMENTS

SB 600 by Sen. Greg Leding would require employers to provide new hires with written notification regarding normal hours, agreed-upon wages and pay schedules. It would also add requirements for payroll process and unconditional payment of wages due in case of a dispute.

This bill is on this afternoon's agenda in the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee.

We oppose this bill.

CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS DATA

SB 675 by Sen. Greg Leding and Rep. Denise Ennett would require electric utilities to provide customers and the public with carbon dioxide equivalent emissions data and information about carbon intensity per electrical unit produced.

This bill is on this afternoon's agenda in the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee.

We oppose this bill.

CLEAN ELECTRICITY JOBS TASK FORCE

SB 681 by Sen. Greg Leding and Rep. Keith Brooks seeks to create the Clean Electricity Jobs Task Force to study policies related to clean energy businesses, workforce training, consumer issues, etc. The Task Force would expire on October 31, 2022

This bill is on this afternoon's agenda in the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee.

We oppose this bill.

PROHIBIT MANDATORY COVID IMMUNIZATIONS OR VACCINES

HB 1547 by Rep. Robin Lundstrum and Sen. Breanne Davis seeks to prohibit mandatory 2019 (COVID-19) immunizations or vaccines.

This bill is on this afternoon's agenda in the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee.

We oppose this bill.

BILLS ON TOMORROW'S COMMITTEE AGENDAS

SALES TAX REDUCTION

SB 26 by Sen. James Sturch seeks to extend the reduced sales and use tax rates for utilities used by manufacturers to the use of coal. It provides that the sale of natural gas, electricity and coal will be subject to the excise tax levied in Amendment 101.

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

We support this bill.

COVENANTS TO NOT COMPETE

SB 665 by Sen. Bob Ballinger and Rep. Justin Gonzales seeks to place limitations on the enforcement of covenant not-to-compete agreements and narrows the definition of the protectable business interest of the employer.

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

We oppose this bill.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

In each session the General Assembly can refer up to three measures to the next General Election ballot. These are the Joint Resolutions that appear to be in play.

SIXTY PERCENT VOTE TO APPROVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

HJR1005 by Rep. David Ray and Sen. Bart Hester would require 60 percent approval by both legislative chambers to refer a measure to the ballot and a 60 percent vote by the public to adopt a constitutional amendment or initiated act.

The Joint Resolution awaits consideration in the Senate State Agencies Committee .

KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

SJR 13 by Sen. Jason Rapert and Rep. Jimmy Gazaway would amend the constitution to provide that Arkansans have a fundamental right to keep and bear arms, ammunition and accessories.

A second amendment was adopted last week to this Joint Resolution.

SPECIAL SESSIONS CALLED BY LEGISLATURE

SJR 10 by Sen. Breanne Davis and Rep. Frances Cavanaugh would authorize the legislature to enter a special session by joint proclamation of the Speaker of the House and Senate President Pro Tempore.

This Joint Resolution is on today's agenda in the Senate State Agencies Committee.

HJR 1001 by Rep. Frances Cavanaugh and Sen. Breanne Davis is the same as **SJR 10**.

BILLS WE OPPOSE

EMPLOYEE TRAINING RESTRICTIONS

SB 627 by Sen. Trent Garner seeks to place limitations on the content of state agency employee training based on a given definition of divisive concepts. It applies a provision to all contracts that requires a statement by the contractor that they will abstain from certain training concepts.

This bill was passed over on the Senate Calendar April 7 and 8.

We oppose this bill.

RESTRICTIONS ON CORPORATE POLITICAL ACTIVITY

SB 651 by Sen. Greg Leding would restrict a corporation's political activity to those actions approved by 75 percent of the shareholders and directors of the corporation.

This bill awaits consideration in the Senate Insurance and Commerce Committee.

We oppose this bill.

REQUIRE TWO-FIFTHS OF A CORPORATE BOARD TO BE ELECTED BY EMPLOYEES

SB 653 by Sen. Greg Leding would require two-fifths of the directors of any corporation with over \$50 million gross revenue to be elected by the employees of the corporation using an election process.

This bill awaits consideration in the Senate Insurance and Commerce Committee.

We oppose this bill.

ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME DATA

HB 1911 by Rep. Joshua Bryant seeks to establish a pilot program for real-time employment and income data to be used for determining an individual's eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Unemployment benefits.

This bill awaits consideration in the House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee.

We have concerns about this bill and are looking for input.

STATE CHAMBER/AIA BILL TRACKING

Total Bills Filed: 1634

State Chamber/AIA Tracking: 610

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION INFORMATION

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

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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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