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93rd General Assembly Tuesday, April 20, 2021 – Session Day 100

TODAY AT THE CAPITOL

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

Committee Meetings

7:30 a.m. – Joint Budget-Peer Review

8:30 a.m. – Joint Budget

30 minutes after Joint Budget – House Judiciary

9:30 a.m. – Senate Agriculture and City/County/Local | House Education and Transportation

10:30 a.m. – Senate Transportation

11:30 a.m. – House Advanced Communications

*2:00 p.m. – Senate State Agencies and Insurance/Commerce | House Tax and Health

**Or upon adjournment, whichever is later.*

BILLS ON THE FLOOR TODAY

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 received a Do Pass yesterday from the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee and is on this afternoon's Senate Calendar.

We support this State Chamber/AIA Priority Agenda bill.

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 failed for a fourth time on the House floor yesterday but got its most yes votes at 72. The bill needs 75 votes to pass. The bill is on today's House Calendar.

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 was not considered yesterday and is on this afternoon's House Calendar.

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.

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 was amended yesterday and is on this afternoon's Senate Calendar.

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

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.

HIGHWAY INTEREST FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

HB 1782 by Rep. Rick Beck and Sen. Mark Johnson seeks to expand the list of those eligible for grants arising from highway interest earnings to include workforce development.

This bill is on today's Senate Calendar.

We support this bill.

BILLS ON TODAY'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 today's agenda in the House Revenue and Taxation Committee.

We support this bill.

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

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

We oppose this bill.

YESTERDAY'S BILL ACTION

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 received a Do Pass yesterday from the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee.

We oppose 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 was defeated yesterday afternoon in the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee.

We opposed 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 was withdrawn from the Senate Insurance and Commerce Committee agenda.

We oppose this bill.

USED CAR SALES TAX REDUCTION

HB 1912 by Rep. John Payton is a second bill filed in the House to lower the sales taxes paid on used car purchases. Rep. Payton had previously moved **HB 1160** out of the House, which also sought to lower the sales tax on used car purchases. The Senate is not willing to pass **HB 1160**, so House Tax Committee Chairman Rep. Joe Jett filed **HB 1912** and moved it out of committee last week. **HB 1912** was amended yesterday to replace Rep. Jett as the sponsor with Rep. Payton.

This bill has been re-assigned to the House Revenue and Taxation Committee.

Passing of HB 1912 and SB 55 are connected and have a big impact on when the session ends.

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 passed in the House yesterday 91 to 0 and has been assigned to the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee.

This is a good bill.

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 passed in the House yesterday 87 to 2 and has been assigned to the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee.

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

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 was not considered yesterday by the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee.

We support 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 was not considered yesterday by 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 was not considered yesterday by the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor 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 has been removed from the House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee agenda.

We had concerns about 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

HJR 1005 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.

This Joint Resolution awaits consideration on the Senate floor.

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 received Do Pass recommendation yesterday from the Senate State Agencies Committee and is on this afternoon's Senate Calendar.

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

This Joint Resolution awaits consideration on the House floor.

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 more than \$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.

STATE CHAMBER/AIA BILL TRACKING

Total Bills Filed: 1647 | New Bills Filed Senate 8 | House 5

State Chamber/AIA New Bills Tracked: 4 Total Bills Tracked: 613

To review a list of the new bills we are tracking, click [here](#).

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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