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93rd General Assembly Wednesday, April 21, 2021 – Session Day 101

TODAY AT THE CAPITOL

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

Committee Meetings

7:30 a.m. – Joint Budget-Personnel

8:30 a.m. – Joint Budget

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

10:00 a.m. – Senate Agencies

11:00 a.m. – House Health

Noon – House Rules

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

4:00 p.m. – Arkansas Legislative Council - Executive Subcommittee

**Or upon adjournment, whichever is later.*

BILLS ON THE FLOOR TODAY

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

We support 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 Senate Calendar.

We oppose this bill.

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, which was passed over on the Senate Calendar April 7 and 8, is on this afternoon's Senate Calendar.

We oppose this bill.

INDEXING WEEKS OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

HB1676 by Rep. Austin McCollum seeks to index the weeks of unemployment compensation benefits in increments to the current unemployment rate.

This bill was defeated yesterday on the House floor 47 yes to 27 no, but the vote was expunged so the bill may come up for a vote again.

This is a concept we have considered but believe it needs to be studied to make sure it is the right fit for Arkansas. Also, the Department of Workforce Services computer system is running Cobol and using green screens. The indexing this bill proposes needs the new system to be in place before attempting a complicated change like this.

We oppose this bill.

BILLS ON TODAY'S COMMITTEE AGENDAS

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 sought to lower the sales tax on used car purchases. But the Senate is not willing to pass **HB 1160**.

This bill passed the House yesterday 91 to 0 and was presented and received a Do Pass recommendation this morning from the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee.

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

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 passed the Senate yesterday 23 to 8 and is on this morning's agenda in the House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee.

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

TAXABILITY OF NONRESIDENT 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 provides exemptions under set circumstances.

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

We support 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 morning's agenda in the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee.

We support this 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 the Department of Finance & Administration.

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

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

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.

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 Monday but is on today's agenda in the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee.

We oppose this bill.

YESTERDAY'S BILL ACTION

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 passed the Senate yesterday 34 to 0.

We support this State Chamber/AIA Priority Agenda 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.

This bill was defeated in the House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee.

We oppose this bill.

FUNDING FOR ARHOME

SB 55 by the Joint Budget Committee is the Department of Human Services funding appropriation that includes funding for the important ARHOME program.

On its fifth vote, the House passed this bill yesterday 78 to 15.

This bill is critical to the state's budget and conclusion of this session. We support 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 passed the Senate yesterday 34 to 0.

We support this bill.

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.

The House passed this bill yesterday 83 to 1.

We opposed this bill.

SB 601 by Sen. Jonathan Dismang seeks to create the Uniform Limited Liability Company Act and repeal the Small Business Entity Tax Pass Through Act.

This bill received a Do Pass recommendation yesterday from the Senate Insurance and Commerce Committee.

Thank you to those that made comments on this bill. We shared the comments with the Bar Association, and they were very responsive to the suggestions.

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.

REPEAL PROPERTY TAXES

HJR 1004 by Rep. Stephen Meeks seeks to repeal personal property taxes by 2047 and set caps on local millage elections.

HR 1046 was filed yesterday seeking authority to make **HJR 1004** a third legislative referral to the 2022 General Election ballot.

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 received a Do Pass recommendation yesterday from 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 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.

STATE CHAMBER/AIA BILL TRACKING

Total Bills Filed: 1654 | New Bills Filed Senate 1 | House 6

State Chamber/AIA New Bills Tracked: 5 Total Bills Tracked: 618

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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