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## 93rd General Assembly Thursday, April 22, 2021 – Session Day 102

### TODAY AT THE CAPITOL

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

#### Committee Meetings

8:30 a.m. – Joint Budget

Upon adjournment of Joint Budget – House Judiciary

9:15 a.m. – House Aging and State Agencies

9:30 a.m. - Senate Agriculture | House Education

10:00 a.m. – Senate City/County/Local

10:30 a.m. – Senate Judiciary and Transportation | House Management

\*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

#### 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.

*An amendment was adopted to this bill yesterday; it was referred back to the Senate State Agencies Committee and is on this afternoon's Senate Calendar.*

**We oppose 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 DF&A.

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

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

#### 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 that sought to lower the sales tax on used car purchases, but the Senate is not willing to pass **HB 1160**.

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

#### 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 bill received a Do Pass recommendation yesterday from the Senate Judiciary Committee and is on this afternoon's Senate Calendar.*

**We oppose this bill.**

## **BILLS ON TODAY'S COMMITTEE AGENDAS**

### **TAXABILITY OF REMOTE WORKERS – State Chamber/AIA Priority Agenda Bill**

**SB 484** by Sen. Jonathan Dismang provides that a nonresident's work is taxable only on work performed within Arkansas. It corrects a 2020 DF&A opinion letter saying that out-of-state remote employees of Arkansas businesses in some instances had to pay Arkansas income taxes.

*This bill received a Do Pass as amended recommendation yesterday morning from the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee and after suspending the rules passed the Senate 34 to 0 yesterday afternoon. It is on this afternoon's agenda in the House Revenue and Taxation Committee.*

**We support this 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 agenda in the House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee.*

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

## **YESTERDAY'S BILL ACTION**

### **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 passed 90 to 0 in the House yesterday afternoon.*

**We support this bill.**

### **MODEL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY ACT**

**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 passed 34 to 0 in the Senate yesterday and has been assigned to the House Insurance and Commerce Committee.*

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

### **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 failed last evening 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 passed in the Senate yesterday afternoon 21 to 8.*

**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 failed yesterday morning in the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee.*

**We support 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 on April 20 on the House floor 47 yes to 27 no, but the vote was*

*expunged so the bill could be brought up again for a vote.*

**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.**

### **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 awaits consideration in the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor 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.**

### **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 April 20 seeking authority to make **HJR 1004** a third legislative referral to the 2022 General Election ballot. It awaits consideration in the House State Agencies Committee.

### **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 is on this afternoon's Senate Calendar.*

### **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.*

### **FREEDOM OF RELIGION**

**SJR 14** by Sen. Jason Rapert and Rep. Jimmy Gazaway seeks to amend the constitution that prohibits the government from burdening one's freedom of religion absent a demonstration that the burden advances a compelling government interest and is the least restrictive means of furthering that interest.

*The Joint Resolution is on this afternoon's Senate Calendar.*

**HR 1048** by Rep. Jimmy Gazaway requests authorization for Sen. Jason Rapert to pursue the consideration of **SJR 14** as a third proposed Constitutional amendment for referral to the electors of the state.

*This resolution was filed yesterday and has been assigned to the House State Agencies Committee.*

**SR 26** by Sen. Jason Rapert requests authorization for Sen. Jason Rapert to pursue the consideration of **SJR 14** as a third proposed Constitutional amendment for referral to the elector of the state.

*This resolution was adopted by the Senate yesterday 28 to 0.*

### **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 passed in the Senate yesterday afternoon 30 to 2 and is on this morning's agenda in the House State Agencies Committee.*

HJR 1001 by Rep. Frances Cavanaugh and Sen. Breanne Davis is the same as SJR 10. This Joint Resolution awaits consideration in the House State Agencies Committee.

### STATE CHAMBER/AIA BILL TRACKING

Total Bills Filed: 1661 | New Bills Filed Senate 5 | House 2  
State Chamber/AIA New Bills Tracked: 6 Total Bills Tracked: 624

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.

#### State Chamber/AIA Governmental Affairs Team

- Randy Zook, President/CEO  
[rzook@arkansasstatechamber.com](mailto:rzook@arkansasstatechamber.com)
- Kenny Hall, Executive Vice President  
[khall@arkansasstatechamber.com](mailto:khall@arkansasstatechamber.com)
- Andrew Parker, Director of Governmental Affairs  
[aparker@arkansasstatechamber.com](mailto:aparker@arkansasstatechamber.com)
- Toni Lindsey, Director of Governmental Affairs  
[tlindsey@arkansasstatechamber.com](mailto:tlindsey@arkansasstatechamber.com)

State Chamber/AIA phone: (501) 372-2222

State Chamber/AIA web site: [www.arkansasstatechamber.com](http://www.arkansasstatechamber.com)

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*The Daily Legislative Update is written by Kenny Hall, reviewed by Randy Zook, then edited and distributed by Jeff Thatcher.*



1200 W. Capitol Ave., P.O. Box 3645  
Little Rock, AR 72203-3645

501-372-2222  
FAX 372-2722



Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas  
1200 W. Capitol Ave., Little Rock, AR 72201  
P.O. Box 3645, Little Rock, AR 72203  
501-372-2222 | [arkansasstatechamber.com](http://arkansasstatechamber.com)