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93rd General Assembly Monday, April 26, 2021 – Session Day 106

TODAY AT THE CAPITOL

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

Monday's Committee Meetings

9:00 a.m. – Senate Insurance and Commerce

9:30 a.m. – Senate Education | House State Agencies and Judiciary

10:00 a.m. – Senate Judiciary | House Insurance and Commerce

10:30 a.m. – Senate State Agencies | House Management

11:00 a.m. – House Education and Health

11:30 a.m. – House Rules

Noon – Arkansas Legislative Council-Executive Subcommittee

Call of the Chair – Senate Health and Transportation | House Tax and Health

Upon Adjournment – House Transportation

2:00 p.m. or upon adjournment, whichever is later – House Agriculture, Tax and City/County/Local

BILLS ON THE FLOOR TODAY

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 April 20 on the House floor 47 yes to 27 no, but the vote was expunged, and it is on this afternoon's House Calendar.

This concept needs to be studied to determine if and how it could be fairly applied in Arkansas. Also, the Department of Workforce Services computer system is running Cobol and using green screens. A new system needs to be in place before attempting this type of change.

REVENUE STABILIZATION ACT (RSA)

SB 702 and HB 1949 by the Joint Budget Committee set the state's budget.

These bills are on this afternoon's floor Calendars.

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 House Calendar.

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

BILLS IN COMMITTEES TODAY

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 completed 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 is on this afternoon's agenda in the House Revenue and Taxation Committee.

We support this State Chamber/AIA Priority Agenda 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 is on this morning's agenda in the House Insurance and Commerce Committee.

Thank you to those that made comments on this bill. The Bar Association was very responsive to the suggestions.

LAST WEEK AT THE CAPITOL

GENERAL ASSEMBLY EXTENDED RECESS

HCR 1015 by House Speaker Matthew Shepherd and Senate President Pro Tem Jimmy Hickey adopted on March 24 provides for an extended recess instead of a sine die adjournment. The General Assembly's goal is to conclude the session tomorrow, Tuesday, April 27.

The purpose of the extended recess is to allow time for the new census data to arrive that is needed to complete Congressional redistricting. That data is expected in September.

HCR 1015 addresses multiple issues of interest.

- a) It authorizes interim committees to meet.
- b) It provides the Legislative Council the same authority it has during an interim between sessions.
- c) If the extended recess remains for more than ninety (90) days, all Acts that do not contain an emergency clause or a specific effective date shall become effective on the 91st day following April 30.
- d) It provides that the Senate President Pro Tempore and the Speaker of the House may by joint proclamation reconvene the General Assembly at any time for the purpose of 1) considering vetoes, 2) correcting errors, 3) completing its work on redistricting, 4) considering legislation related to the COVID-19 public health emergency, 5) considering the need for further extension of the Regular Session and 6) adjourning sine die.

Governor Hutchinson approved this Concurrent Resolution on Friday.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

In each session, the General Assembly can refer up to three measures to the next General Election ballot.

These two Joint Resolutions have been adopted.

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 has been sent to the Governor.

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 has been sent to the Governor.

The following Joint Resolutions are still in play to be the third referral.

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 House and Senate adopted Resolutions that authorize **SJR 14** to be pursued as the third referral. **SJR 14** The Joint Resolution passed in the Senate 27 to 4 on April 22. **SJR 14** is on this morning's agenda in the House State Agencies Committee.*

PHASE OUT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES

HJR 1004 by Rep. Stephen Meeks proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing the General Assembly to reduce and make exemptions to property taxes and require the General Assembly to abolish property taxes by 2047. It sets an effective date of January 1, 2023. It also gives the ballot title An Amendment to the Arkansas Constitution Providing that No Tax Shall Be Levied on Personal Property Effective No Later Than January 1, 2047, and Providing That Personal Property and Real Property Are Not Required to be Taxed at an Equal Rate.

HR 1046 is a resolution to authorize the pursuit of **HJR 1004** as a third referral. **HR 1046** is on this morning's agenda in the House State Agencies Committee.

STATE CHAMBER/AIA BILL TRACKING

Total Bills Filed: 1663

State Chamber/AIA Tracked Bills and Resolutions: 625

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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