



93rd General Assembly Wednesday, April 28, 2021 – Session Day 108

TODAY AT THE CAPITOL

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENTERS EXTENDED RECESS

The Senate concluded their work around 12:15 a.m. this morning and the House finished around 1:15 a.m. The 93rd General Assembly is now in a period of extended recess set forth in **HCR 1015**.

HCR 1015 by House Speaker Matthew Shepherd and Senate President Pro Tem Jimmy Hickey was adopted on March 24 and provides for an extended recess instead of a sine die adjournment.

Provisions of **HCR 1015** include:

It authorizes interim committees to meet. It provides the Legislative Council the same authority it has during an interim between sessions. 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.

It also 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.

STATE CHAMBER/AIA PRIORITY AGENDA BILLS THAT PASSED

TAX ISSUES

HB 1209 by Rep. Joe Jett is now **Act 362**. This Act creates an **elective passthrough entity-level tax to enhance federal deductibility** of Arkansas tax burden.

HB 1468 by Rep. Joe Jett and Sen. Blake Johnson is now **Act 586**. This Act creates an **Independent Tax Fairness Commission** for a fairer tax appeal process.

SB 420 by Sen. Dismang and Rep. Jett is now **Act 629**. This Act **extends the corporate income tax return** deadline by a month when the federal deadline is extended.

SB 481 by Sen. Jonathan Dismang is now **Act 463**. This Act **enhances the usability of an existing tax credit program for public road improvements**.

HB 1596 by Rep. Joe Jett and Sen. Jonathan Dismang is now **Act 880**. This Act **expands the existing manufacturing sales tax exemption to printing**.

HB 1361 Rep. Les Eaves and Sen. Jonathan Dismang is now **Act 248**. This Act

conforms Arkansas Tax laws to the federal tax treatment of payroll protection program loan forgiveness and exempts from income tax et al.

SB 236 by Sen. Johnathan Dismang and Rep. Joe Jett is now **Act 154**. This Act **exempts unemployment insurance benefits from income taxes**.

SB 484 by Sen. Jonathan Dismang was adopted by the House yesterday 95 to 0. This bill adopts the model **Mobile Workforce Act, which provides that remote workers are taxed only on their work in Arkansas**.

LEGAL ENVIRONMENT AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION

SB 622 by Sen. Jimmy Hickey and Rep. Matthew Shepherd is now **Act 681**. This Act achieves our desire to see a **hate crime bill** be adopted.

HB 1487 by Rep. Justin Gonzales and Sen. Ben Gilmore is now **Act 559**. This Act essentially codifies a previously issued executive order to **provide Covid liability protection for businesses**. It creates civil immunity for damages or injuries caused by or resulting from exposure to COVID-19 on business premises.

HB 1321 by Rep. Jimmy Gazaway and Sen. Alan Clark is now **Act 712**. This Act broadens existing criminal law provisions to include **protection of our state's critical infrastructure**.

HB 1488 by Rep. Justin Gonzales and Sen. Ben Gilmore is now **Act 353**. This Act establishes **COVID-19 as a workers' compensation occupational disease**, which makes these cases eligible to seek workers' compensation benefits.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

HB 1765 by Rep. Robin Lundstrum is now **Act 667**. This Act authorizes the **diversion of existing UI Stabilization Tax revenue** from the UI Trust Fund to be **used by the Department of Workforce Service to upgrade/modernize the UI computer system**.

HB 1409 by Rep. Robin Lundstrum and Sen. Ricky Hill is now **Act 369**. This act **freezes the UI wage base for 2022** at \$10,000 or a lesser calculated amount.

HB 1407 by Rep. Robin Lundstrum and Sen. Ricky Hill is now **Act 368**. This act **sets UI stabilization tax for 2022** at two-tenths of one percent (0.2%).

HB 1212 by Sen. Missy Irvin and Rep. Jack Ladyman is now **Act 153**. This Act provides employers **experience forgiveness for UI claims** made during a set period of time due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ARHOME PROGRAM

SB 410 by Sen. Missy Irvin and Rep. Michelle Gray is now **Act 530**. This Act replaces the Arkansas Works program with ARHOME. Failure to adopt ARHOME would have caused the state to lose \$750 million in federal funding for Medicaid expansion in Arkansas.

YESTERDAY'S BILLS

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 DFA opinion letter saying that out-of-state remote employees of Arkansas businesses in some instances had to pay Arkansas income taxes.

This bill was approved yesterday by the House 95 to 0.

MODEL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY ACT

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

The House passed this bill 94 to 0 yesterday afternoon.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

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

General Election ballot. Three measures were adopted.

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 passed in the House yesterday 75 to 19.

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.

STATE CHAMBER/AIA BILL TRACKING

Total Bills Filed: 1669 | New Bills Filed 6

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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