

# DAILY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



*Business matters.*

## Daily Legislative Update

94<sup>th</sup> Arkansas General Assembly  
Friday, February 24, 2023 | Day 47

### TODAY'S MEETINGS

The legislature is in recess until Monday.

### NEW TRACKED BILLS

We began tracking [9 additional bills](#) today. Six new bills address taxes. The other bills address microbrewery/restaurant private clubs, a feasibility study for an Arkansas space port and utility rate changes.

### HEALTHCARE BILLS

#### Prior Authorization – Gold Card

**HB 1271/SB 143 by Rep. Lee Johnson and Sen. Missy Irvin**

These bills seek to eliminate the current prior authorization processes for all fully insured individuals and small businesses. The bill applies to insurance companies, health maintenance organizations, hospital and medical service corporations, risk-based provider organizations and sponsors of nonfederal self-funded governmental health plans.

The bill would suspend prior authorization for the first six months of 2024. The bill would then require health plans to conduct a utilization analysis of claims submitted for the first six months of 2024 with historical claims data, historical prior authorization approval and denial rates. The bill would also give medical providers who meet certain thresholds an ongoing exemption from prior authorization requirements – a “Gold Card” status.

#### Cost-Sharing Collection Act

**HB 1259/SB 122 by Rep. Lee Johnson and Sen. Missy Irvin**

This bill seeks to require a healthcare insurer to pay a healthcare provider all costs of care including deductibles, coinsurance and copays, which are currently the responsibility of the patient/health plan enrollee. The insurer must then collect the deductibles, coinsurance and copays from the patient/enrollee. The bill would prohibit the insurer from withholding any amount for cost-sharing and also prohibit any decrease in reimbursements or increase in premiums. Further, the insurer cannot cancel a policy for unpaid amounts.

### YESTERDAY'S BILLS

#### Net-Metering - Rate Paid To Generators

**SB 295 by Sen. Jonathan Dismang and Rep. Lanny Fite (HB 1370)**

This bill seeks to change the method used to calculate the rate that electric utilities pay to net-metering customers who generate excess solar power. An agreement was reached, and the bill was amended. SB 295 then received a Do Pass recommendation from the Senate State Agencies committee.

### **Spendthrift Trusts - Domestic Asset Protection Trusts**

#### **HB 1394 by Rep. John Maddox and Sen. Clint Penzo**

This bill makes various changes to spendthrift trust law, allowing the creation of third-party spendthrift trusts and domestic asset protection trusts. The bill received a Do Pass recommendation from the House Judiciary Committee yesterday morning.

### **Decanting of Trusts**

#### **HB 1431 by Rep. Robin Lundstrum and Sen. Clint Penzo**

This bill allows for the decanting of trusts and provides discretionary powers for trustees for the appointment of property from one trust to another trust. This bill received a Do Pass recommendation from the House Judiciary Committee yesterday morning.

### **BILL TRACKING**

816 Bills Filed | Senate: 7 new – 317 filed | House: 10 new – 499 filed  
State Chamber Tracking: 314 - 9 added today

To view all tracked bills by category, click [State Chamber AIA Bill Tracking Categories](#)

### **2023 STATE CHAMBER AIA LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

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#### **LEGISLATIVE SESSION INFORMATION**

To view schedules, calendars, bill information, and legislator information, click [www.arkleg.state.ar.us](http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us).

#### **LEGISLATIVE MESSAGE CENTER**

House of Representatives: 501-682-6211  
Senate: 501-682-2902

#### **LIVE STREAMING FROM THE CAPITOL**

The House and Senate have links to live streaming of their committee meetings and floor session online.

- House: <https://www.arkansashouse.org/>
- Senate: <http://www.arkansas.gov/senate/>

#### **STATE CHAMBER/AIA GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS TEAM**

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