

DAILY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Business matters.

Daily Legislative Update

94th Arkansas General Assembly
Wednesday, February 22, 2023 | Day 45

TODAY MEETINGS

The Senate Education Committee meets at 9:00 a.m. Senate Revenue and Tax, Judiciary, and Public Health Committees meet at 10:00 a.m. House Insurance and Commerce, State Agencies, City, County and Local and Agriculture Committees meet at 10:00 a.m. The Senate will convene at 1:00 p.m., and the House will convene at 1:30 p.m.

NEW TRACKED BILLS

We added [13 bills](#) to our tracking today. Four are previously filed bills that address trust issues. The other newly tracked bills address damage to underground facilities, school superintendent contracts, defining underground gas storage facilities as critical infrastructure, sales and property tax exemptions, utility storm recovery costs, land ownership and prescription drug cost sharing.

STATE CHAMBER/AIA PRIORITY BILLS

Unemployment Insurance

HB 1430 by Rep. Robin Lundstrum and Sen. Kim Hammer

This State Chamber/AIA priority bill seeks to reduce employers' unemployment taxes by limiting wage base increases; eliminating the Stabilization Tax and reducing its administrative funding; reducing the new employer unemployment insurance (UI) tax rate; and lowering the top UI tax rate. It also reduces the maximum weeks of benefits from 16 to 12 weeks.

HB 1430 received a Do Pass recommendation yesterday morning from the House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee. It is on today's House Calendar to adopt an amendment that adds sponsors.

TODAY'S BILL ACTIVITY

Education - Arkansas LEARNS Act

SB 294 by Sen. Breanne Davis and 24 Senators and Rep. Keith Brooks and 55 Representatives

This bill is being heard as a special order of business this morning in the Senate Education Committee. Some of the bill's provisions include:

- Creating personal accounts for students to use in attending eligible schools.

- Setting a minimum base teacher salary of \$50,000 and guaranteeing at least \$2,000 pay increase over current salary.
- Providing for schools or school districts in D, F, or Level 5 Categories to be operated by a charter school or other entity that is approved by the State Board of Education.
- Requiring school districts to develop and offer at least one career-ready pathway.
- Allowing payment for vo-tech school services to course providers, including businesses that provide training.
- Repealing the Teacher Fair Dismissal Act and Fair Hearing Act.
- Defining prohibited indoctrination.
- Creating school safety provisions for school architecture and personnel training policies.
- Creating a revolving loan program for charter schools.
- Creating transportation grants to schools and local governments for improvements.
- Requiring literacy screening and math intervention plans.

BILL TRACKING

788 Bills Filed | Senate: 12 new – 307 filed | House: 12 new – 481 filed
State Chamber Tracking: 303 - 13 added today

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

2023 STATE CHAMBER AIA LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

LEGISLATIVE SESSION INFORMATION

To view schedules, calendars, bill information, and legislator information, click 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/>

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