

# DAILY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



*Business matters.*

## Daily Legislative Update

94<sup>th</sup> Arkansas General Assembly  
Monday, February 6, 2023 | Day 29

### TODAY AT THE CAPITOL

A joint committee and two Senate committees meet this morning. The Senate will convene at 1:00 p.m., and the House will convene at 1:30 p.m.

### NEW TRACKED BILLS

We added [2 bills](#) to our tracking today, including:

### LAST WEEK AT THE CAPITOL

The General Assembly finished its first month of the legislative session with an icy week at the Capitol. Both chambers met Monday through Wednesday. Although the House met on Thursday, the Senate recessed due to the weather. Committees are in full swing with growing agendas. One bill that garnered much attention last week in the Senate Judiciary Committee was SB 71 by Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-Jonesboro). The bill would ban state entities from making educational, employment, or procurement decisions based on a person's gender, ethnicity, or race. It would subject a state or public employee who uses affirmative action in decision-making to a Class A misdemeanor, while also creating a civil cause of action for anyone who feels their rights have been violated by the use of affirmative action. The bill cleared the Senate Judiciary Committee with one dissenting vote and will be voted on by the full Senate this week.

Two issues still expected to be considered in the next few weeks include a measure to overhaul the state's education system and criminal justice reform legislation. Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders has been leading the effort on education reform and is expected to have a bill filed within the next couple of weeks. Rep. Jimmy Gazaway (R-Jonesboro) and Sen. Ben Gilmore (R-Crossett) are working on a criminal justice reform measure that Rep. Gazaway told media last week will likely include multiple bills addressing issues from sentencing reform to initiatives intended to help slow recidivism rates. Both measures are likely to have significant revenue impacts, so many of the proposed tax cut and other budget matters have been on hold pending their introduction.

Last week, the state reported that general revenue collections were up \$25 million for the month of January. The reported numbers are above forecast and about 3.7% over the same month last year. The Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) cites better-than-expected individual income and sales tax collections. The state's unemployment rate is 3.6%, and unemployment benefit claims are about 30% below last year.

Also this week, Republican congressional leaders announced that Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, the youngest governor in the nation, will deliver the Republican

address to the nation from Little Rock following President Joe Biden's State of the Union address on Tuesday, February 7.

### **BILL TRACKING**

541 Bills Filed | Senate: 0 new – 192 filed | House: 2 new – 349 filed  
State Chamber Tracking: 175 - 2 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/>

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STAY CONNECTED



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