

DAILY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Business matters.

Daily Legislative Update

94th Arkansas General Assembly
Tuesday, February 7, 2023 | Day 30

TODAY AT THE CAPITOL

Joint Budget Committee meets at 9:00 a.m., and eight standing 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 12 bills to our tracking today, including:

BILLS WE SUPPORT

Unemployment Benefits - Job Offers/Interviews

HB 1197 by Rep. Kendon Underwood and Sen. Ben Gilmore

This bill disqualifies a person from receiving unemployment benefits if that person fails to accept suitable work within five days of receiving a job offer or if that person fails to appear for a scheduled job interview on two or more occasions without providing notice. The sponsors amended the bill to satisfy a concern the State Chamber/AIA had, and we now support this bill, which is on this morning's agenda in the House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee.

BILLS WE OPPOSE

Pharmacy Benefit Managers

SB 94 by Sen. Kim Hammer and Rep. Brandon Achor

This bill modifies requirements and authority of the insurance commissioner regarding pharmacy benefit managers. The bill repeals quarterly reporting requirements of pharmacy benefit managers; it authorizes the insurance commissioner to examine the books of a manager, as necessary; and it authorizes the insurance commissioner to impose a penalty of \$10,000 for certain violations. The State Chamber/AIA is concerned that this bill violates the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). We oppose this bill, which is on this morning's agenda in the House Insurance and Commerce Committee.

Criminal Law Charges Against Pharmaceutical Executives for Drug Misinformation

SB 7 by Sen. Bryan King

This bill creates a criminal offense for prescription drug harm or homicide. Under this bill, pharmaceutical company executives who conceal information about the dangerous effects of a prescription drug that their company has introduced to the market could be charged with an unclassified felony if the drug causes serious injury or death. This bill was prefiled and has been amended twice. The first amendment defined "pharmaceutical company" in a way that expressly excludes hospitals, pharmacists, and healthcare

providers. The second amendment created the Vaccine Harm Offense Fund. The State Chamber/AIA opposes SB 7.

BILL TRACKING

564 Bills Filed | Senate: 14 new – 205 filed | House: 10 new – 359 filed
State Chamber Tracking: 187 - 12 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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