

DAILY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Business matters.

Daily Legislative Update

94th Arkansas General Assembly
Wednesday, February 8, 2023 | Day 31

TODAY AT THE CAPITOL

Seven standing committees met at 10:00 a.m. The Senate will convene at 1:00 p.m., and the House will convene at 1:30 p.m. Visit www.arkleg.state.ar.us to view today's meeting schedules, floor calendar, agendas and video links for the meetings.

EDUCATION

Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders will unveil her Arkansas LEARNS plan today at 12:30 p.m. from the second floor steps to the House Chamber in the State Capitol.

NEW TRACKED BILLS

We added [14 bills](#) to our tracking today. You can also view yesterday's report [here](#).

Today's new bills address issues such as tax exemptions and credits, occupational licensing, scrap metal, roadway funding, technology, and oil & gas.

There were also three House joint resolutions filed yesterday proposing constitutional amendments. Today is the filing deadline for joint resolutions seeking to amend the constitution. Yesterday's filings included:

Constitutional Amendment - Voter Approval of Tax Hikes

HJR 1004 by Rep. David Ray

This joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to be known as the "Arkansas Taxpayer Protection Amendment" and provides for voter approval of a tax increase enacted by the General Assembly. This is currently a shell bill.

Constitutional Amendment - Taxpayer Bill of Rights

HJR 1005 by Rep. Wayne Long

This joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to provide for limitations on governmental spending and creates the "Arkansas Taxpayer Bill of Rights." This is currently a shell bill.

Constitutional Amendment - Lottery Funds for Vocational/Tech Schools

HJR 1006 by Rep. Robin Lundstrum and Sen. Jane English

This joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to expand the uses of lottery proceeds to include scholarships and grants to a public or private vocational-technical school or a public or private technical institute.

All joint resolutions are consider by the State Agencies Committees.

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. The House Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committee passed the bill out of committee yesterday morning. It is on today's House calendar.

YESTERDAY AT THE CAPITOL

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, and it authorizes the insurance commissioner to examine the books of a manager, as necessary.

This bill is in the Senate Insurance & Commerce Committee. An amendment to the bill was presented in the committee meeting, so the committee members did not take a vote. Once the amendment is engrossed, we will get a legal opinion on any potential ERISA impact.

BILL TRACKING

564 Bills Filed | Senate: 9 new – 215 filed | House: 10 new – 369 filed
State Chamber Tracking: 201- 14 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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