

DAILY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Business matters.

Daily Legislative Update

94th Arkansas General Assembly
Monday, January 30, 2023 | Day 22

TODAY AT THE CAPITOL

The Senate will convene today at 1:00 p.m., and the House will convene at 1:30 p.m. Visit www.arkleg.state.ar.us for committee meetings and agendas, floor calendars, bills, legislative rosters, and video links to meetings.

NEW TRACKED BILLS

We added [3 bills](#) to our tracking today.

LAST WEEK AT THE CAPITOL

The third week of the legislative session saw a number of additional bills filed, as legislators begin to advance more legislation through committees and the session begins to pick up steam. For example, measures impacting professional licensing requirements are filed every session, and this session is no exception. More than a dozen of these bills have been filed thus far. Most have been specific to various professions, but **SB90**, filed this week by Sen. Ricky Hill (R-Cabot), would authorize an “automatic and expedited” professional licensure for those coming from out-of-state. An amendment was filed to this bill last Wednesday, and we expect another amendment to come soon.

Sarah Huckabee Sanders also issued a handful of executive orders this week, including an order to eliminate the steering committees established under the previous administration that made recommendations for how the state should use funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. In light of that order, a legislative subcommittee did not take any action this week on a number of ARPA projects recommended by those steering committees. Those funds (about \$205 million) will be added back to the state’s unallocated ARPA funds, leaving a balance of \$497 million.

Also this week, Governor Sanders appointed David Haak, a former state legislator from Texarkana, to a ten-year term on the Arkansas Highway Commission. Haak fills the position previously held by Robert Moore of Arkansas City, whose term had expired.

Meanwhile, Governor Sanders, legislators, and others have long-said education reform will be a hallmark measure of the session. Governor Sanders and legislative leadership are working on the reform bill, and the bill is expected to be filed in coming weeks.

This week, House minority leader Tippi McCullough (D-Little Rock) and Senate Minority Leader Greg Leding (D-Fayetteville) filed bills that would increase starting salaries for teachers in Arkansas from \$36,000 to \$50,000 and raise minimum pay for classified school employees from \$11 an hour to \$15 an hour.

Rep. Jim Wooten (R-Beebe) filed two bills, **HB 1204** and **HB 1205**. HB 1204 would require private schools to administer an annual statewide student assessment and to admit each student that applies and intends to use state funds to cover the costs of attending private school. HB1205 would require a public school district, open-enrollment public charter school and nonpublic school that accepts any state funding to provide transportation to enrolled students living within 35 miles of the school.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

As we enter week four of the session, so far only [two joint resolutions](#) have been filed that propose amendments to the Constitution. The deadline to file constitutional amendment proposals and lottery-funded scholarship legislation is February 8.

BILL TRACKING

497 Bills Filed | Senate: 1 new – 181 filed | House: 9 new – 316 filed
State Chamber Tracking: 145 - 19 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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