



Daily Legislative Update

Friday, January 16, 2015

5th Day of 90th General Assembly

TODAY AT THE CAPITOL

In observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, the House and Senate will stand in recess until Tuesday, January 20th.

We will not produce a *Daily Legislative Update* on Monday. The update will return on Tuesday.

STATE CHAMBER/AIA BILL TRACKING

To date, the House has filed 80 bills and the Senate has filed 58 bills.

The State Chamber/AIA is tracking 24 bills and resolutions.

New bills added to State Chamber/AIA tracking today:

[HB 1077](#) [Collins, Charlie \(R\)](#) Gives concealed carry privileges to staff members of universities, colleges, and community colleges regardless of rules adopted by their employing institution to the contrary.

[HB 1079](#) [Harris, Justin \(R\)](#) Creates offenses for the unlawful capture of images by unmanned vehicles or aircraft and for distribution of such images.

For the complete, searchable list of bills being tracked please visit our [tracking site](#). The full text of each bill is available at the site.

NEXT WEEK AT THE CAPITOL

House convenes at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday

Senate convenes at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday

Committee Meetings for Tuesday, January 20, 2015

JOINT

8:30 AM Room B, MAC [JBC-SPECIAL LANGUAGE](#)

9:00 AM Room A, MAC [JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE](#)

HOUSE

10:00 AM Room B, MAC [PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION- HOUSE](#) [Agenda](#)

10:00 AM Room 130 [PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND LABOR COMMITTEE- HOUSE](#) [Agenda](#)

SENATE

None listed.

GOVERNOR'S INCOME TAX CUT

John Lyon of the Arkansas News Bureau reported on Gov. Asa Hutchinson's speech that was presented yesterday to the Arkansas Municipal League's Winter Meeting:

Hutchinson said he will unveil his budget plan next week. Hutchinson also did not rule out the possibility that he could propose additional delays of tax cuts that lawmakers approved in 2013. He said Tuesday he would propose delaying portions of one of those tax cuts, a measure to cut income tax rates by one-tenth of a percentage point for all tax brackets.

The governor met with legislative leaders Thursday morning to discuss his proposal to cut income tax rates by a full percentage point for Arkansans earning between \$21,000 and \$75,000 a year, the centerpiece of his campaign for governor. Talking to reporters later, Hutchinson said, "The legislators are asking the right questions: We need to see this in the context of the whole budget, and making sure that it's a balanced budget and how it impacts everything. Fair questions. So we're going to be presenting our balanced budget next week to make sure they have the information." He said he was confident lawmakers would support his tax plan after they see his budget. "They just want to see that full piece of it before they actually move that forward," he said.

Senate President Jonathan Dismang, R-Beebe, who is carrying the middle-class tax cut for Hutchinson, has said he could present the bill in the Senate Revenue and Tax Committee as early as Wednesday. That committee's chairman, Sen. Jake Files, R-Fort Smith, said Thursday the panel will be more inclined to take up the bill after Hutchinson has released his proposed budget. "I had several members that felt like this was just coming too fast, they didn't have a chance to get their arms around it. I think this is a necessary first step for us to go to the next step," Files said.

Rep. Joe Jett, D-Success, chairman of the House Revenue and Tax Committee, expressed a similar view. “I didn’t want my members to vote on the bill without seeing the budget,” he said. “I think everybody just wants this done in a responsible manner, and I think the governor recognized that.” Jett said he is inclined to support Hutchinson’s tax plan and believed most House members were as well, though he said some legislators remain concerned that Hutchinson has not yet announced a position on the private option, Arkansas’ version of Medicaid expansion.

Hutchinson has said he will give a speech on health care reform on Jan. 22. “There are some folks in the Democratic caucus that are concerned about doing this in front of the private option,” Jett said, noting that the decision to continue or discontinue the program will impact the budget.

Legislators passed \$140 million in tax cuts in 2013, to be phased in gradually. One of former Gov. Mike Beebe’s last actions as governor was to recommend that portions of several of the cuts be delayed to lessen their impact on the budget. Hutchinson was asked Thursday if he is considering proposing the delay of any other tax cuts from 2013. “There’s a number of other tax cuts, as you remember, Gov. Beebe recommended being delayed. We will address that in the balanced budget that we present next week.”

LEGISLATIVE SESSION CONTACT INFORMATION

State Senators: 501-682-2902

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To view schedules, calendars, bill information and legislator information, visit:

www.arkleg.state.ar.us.

To view live stream video and audio from the Arkansas House of Representatives,

visit www.arkansashouse.org.

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