



# Daily Legislative Update

Thursday, January 22, 2015

11<sup>th</sup> Day of 90<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## TODAY AT THE CAPITOL

Senate convenes at 11:30 a.m.

House convenes at 1:30 p.m.

### Committee Meetings:

#### JOINT

9:00 AM	Room A, MAC	<a href="#">JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a> 
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#### HOUSE

10:00 AM	Room B, MAC	<a href="#">PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION- HOUSE</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>
10:00 AM	Room 138	<a href="#">EDUCATION COMMITTEE- HOUSE</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>
11:30 AM	Room 151	<a href="#">ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - HOUSE</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>

#### SENATE

10:00 AM	Room 309	<a href="#">AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY &amp; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - SENATE</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>
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## GOVERNOR HUTCHINSON'S HEALTH CARE AND TAX CUT PLANS

Governor Hutchinson will make a major speech today at 10 a.m. that addresses his plans for health care in Arkansas.

**SB6** by Senate President Jonathan Dismang and House Speaker Jeremy Gillam received a Do Pass recommendation from the Senate Revenue & Taxation Committee yesterday morning. This is Governor Hutchinson's middle class tax cut plan. The bill is on today's Senate floor calendar for consideration by the full Senate.

If SB6 becomes law, Arkansans with taxable incomes between \$21,000 and \$75,000 would see the tax rate drop from 6 percent to 5 percent on income between \$21,000 and \$35,099, starting next year. The tax rate on income between \$35,100 and \$75,000 would fall from 7 percent to 6 percent.

SB6 delays a 0.1 percentage point income tax rate cut for most Arkansans until next year. Only those with taxable incomes of less than \$21,000 will get that tax cut, as scheduled, this year. By virtue of an amendment added in the committee meeting, SB6 also repeals Act 1488 of 2013 that increased the capital gains exclusion from the state income tax from 30 percent to 50 percent, starting this tax year, and provided an income-tax exemption for that part of a capital gain received by a taxpayer in excess of \$10 million starting last tax year. The law would be repealed retroactive to January 1 of this year.

The Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) estimates this plan will reduce state general tax revenue by \$12.8 million in fiscal 2016, starting July 1, and \$80.6 million in fiscal 2017. Without the amendment, the finance department estimated that SB6 would have reduced state general revenue by \$33.7 million in fiscal 2016 and \$102.1 million in fiscal 2017.

DFA's John Theis said there are about 597,000 Arkansans earning \$21,000 to \$75,000 who will benefit from the reduced income tax rates. A taxpayer with taxable income of \$75,000 will save \$540, while a taxpayer with \$50,000 of taxable income will save \$290; someone with taxable income of \$35,000 will save \$140, he said.

## STATE CHAMBER/AIA BILL TRACKING

To date, the House has filed 126 bills and the Senate has filed 87 bills.

The State Chamber/AIA is tracking 38 bills and resolutions.

New bills added to State Chamber/AIA tracking today:

<p><a href="#"><u>HB 1014</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Gillam, Jeremy (R)</u></a> <a href="#"><u>English, Jane (R)</u></a></p>	<p>Exempts state institutions that are immune from tort liability from the requirement to obtain liability coverage when acquiring a license for a</p>
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child care facility.

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| <a href="#"><u>HB 1110</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Womack, Richard (R)</u></a><br><a href="#"><u>Hester, Bart (R)</u></a> | Allows purchase of scrap metal from persons over age 16; previously the law prohibited any purchase of scrap metal from any minor.   |
| <a href="#"><u>HB 1111</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Sabin, Warwick (D)</u></a>   | Provides detailed guidelines and requirements for public and private entities to enter into both for construction projects of certain public buildings; creates a Legislative Task Force for review of such partnerships.              |
| <a href="#"><u>HB 1112</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Sabin, Warwick (D)</u></a>   | Removes an exemption from sales tax for sales by charitable organizations that provided the sale was exempt if the dominant motive of the majority of purchasers of the item was to make a charitable donation rather than a purchase. |
| <a href="#"><u>HB 1116</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Lowery, Mark (R)</u></a>   | Lowers the threshold for age-based employment hours restrictions from applying to persons under 18 to persons under 17.  |
| <a href="#"><u>HB 1120</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Magie, Steve (D)</u></a>   | Establishes procedures for examining and licensure as an anesthesiologist assistant; outlines the duties an anesthesiologist assistant may perform under supervision of a licensed anesthesiologist.                                   |

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.

## **YESTERDAY**

**HB 1002** by Rep. Warwick Sabin was amended yesterday and referred to the House Rules Committee. It would authorize the Ethics Commission to issue advisory opinions and guidelines on the requirements of Amendment 94. House Speaker Jeremy Gillam told a group of business lobbyists at the State Chamber/AIA yesterday that there will be more legislation addressing Amendment 94. Amendment 94 was approved by the Arkansas voters in the November 2014 General Election. It made changes to Arkansas ethics laws, term limits and campaign contributions, and created a commission to set salaries for the General Assembly, Constitutional Officers and the Judiciary.

## **TOMORROW AT THE CAPITOL**

Committee Meetings for Friday, January 23, 2015

### **JOINT**

None listed.

### **HOUSE**

9:00 AM	Room 151	<a href="#">STATE AGENCIES &amp; GOVT'L AFFAIRS- HOUSE</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>
9:00 AM	Room 138	<a href="#">AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY &amp; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT- HOUSE</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>
9:00 AM	Room B, MAC	<a href="#">CITY, COUNTY &amp; LOCAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE- HOUSE</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>

### **SENATE**

None listed.

## **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](http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us).

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

visit [www.arkansashouse.org](http://www.arkansashouse.org).

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