



Daily Legislative Update

Friday, February 13, 2015

33rd Day of 90th General Assembly

Bill of Interest

HB 1158 by Rep. Richard Womack and Sen. Bart Hester received a Do Pass recommendation from the House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee yesterday. It could be considered by the full House as early as Monday. The bill would allow private individuals to engage in work (including carpentry, plumbing, electrical, etc.) without becoming licensed or registering with the State, even if that is currently required by a specific Board or Commission (e.g. plumbers), but those individuals cannot advertise their services as "licensed" or "registered".

The bill does not ban the State from continuing to offer licensing and registration, but the State could not prohibit a citizen from doing certain work unless it can establish, in a court or other governmental tribunal, that the "health and welfare" of Arkansas consumers requires the specific job at issue to be performed by someone who is licensed.

Proponents of the bill have argued the bill will allow people to earn a living without the extra licensure fees. On the other hand, the bill's opponents argue this creates an uneven playing field with some people not having to follow the same rules as others. Additionally, the bill transfers a tremendous amount of legislative power to the judicial system.

We have heard from all of the contractor groups and they are very concerned about this bill. We suspect businesses and manufacturers who hire work done may have concerns as well. We will continue to gather information, but this bill could move quickly through the process.

TODAY AT THE CAPITOL

House convenes 10:00 a.m.

The Senate does not meet.

JOINT

None listed.

HOUSE

9:00 AM	Room 149	INSURANCE & COMMERCE- HOUSE	Agenda
9:00 AM	Room 151	STATE AGENCIES & GOVT'L AFFAIRS- HOUSE	Agenda
9:00 AM	Room 130	AGING, CHILDREN AND YOUTH, LEGISLATIVE & MILITARY AFFAIRS- HOUSE	Agenda

SENATE

None listed.

STATE CHAMBER/AIA BILL TRACKING

To date, the House has filed 375 bills and the Senate has filed 367 bills.

The State Chamber/AIA is tracking 181 bills and resolutions.

New bills added to State Chamber/AIA tracking today:

HB 1372	Meeks, David (R)	Provides that concealed carry licensees may carry firearms on the property of K-12 private schools or prekindergarten private schools that have voted to allow firearms to be carried on campus.
HB 1373	Fielding, David (D) Pierce, Bobby (D)	Prohibits the use of handheld wireless devices while operating a motor vehicle and establishes fines and penalties for first and subsequent violations.
HB 1375	Mayberry, Julie (R) Clark, Alan (R)	Allows counties without sales taxes to hold an election deciding whether or not to levy a sales tax on alcoholic beverages to fund public health and safety measures in the county.
SB 356	Files, Jake (R)	Declares abandoned U.S. Savings bonds unclaimed for five years after the date of maturity and escheats the bond proceeds to the state if no claim is made during the two years following the bond being declared abandoned.



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 Monday at 1:30 p.m.
Senate convenes Monday at 1:30 p.m.

Committee Meetings for Monday, February 16, 2015

JOINT

Upon Adjournment of Both Chambers	Room B, MAC	JBC-CLAIMS	Agenda	
Rescheduled	Mac, Room A	JBC-PEER REVIEW	Agenda	

HOUSE

None listed.

SENATE

None listed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION CONTACT INFORMATION

State Senators: 501-682-2902

State Representatives: 501-682-6211

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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