



## Daily Legislative Update

Monday, February 16, 2015

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

### TODAY AT THE CAPITOL

Due to inclement weather, the House and Senate have cancelled all committee meetings and floor sessions scheduled for today.

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE FILED

Sen. Jane English filed a package of workforce development bills Friday afternoon. Since the Senate did not meet Friday, none of the bills have been referred to committee.

**SB 368** is sponsored by Rep. Charlotte Douglas in the House. The bill would create a new statewide workforce development system and rename the Board of Career Education as The Career Education and Workforce Development Board. The 10-person Board would include representatives from various industries including agriculture, construction, energy, healthcare, information technology, manufacturing, financial services, hospitality, transportation logistics and rehabilitation services. Non-voting members include: the State's education commissioner, higher education director, executive director of the Arkansas Community Colleges, Arkansas Economic Development Commission director and the director of the Department of Workforce Services.

According to the bill, the purpose of the Board is to "develop and monitor a state plan for vocational-technical education which shall include at least the establishment of at least one area vocational center in each education service cooperative service area and in Pulaski County." The Career Education and Workforce Development Board will develop each of the policy issues affecting public schools after consulting the state Board of Education and will be implemented in coordination with the Department of Education, the education service cooperatives or both.

Additionally, the Board would have general supervision of all programs involving vocational, technical and occupational education, and would have control over administering the state's adult education funds.

**SB 369** and **SB 372** would eliminate specified service areas for two-year colleges and technical schools and removes the duty of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to determine service areas for two-year institutions of higher education. Rep. Bill Gossage is the House sponsor of SB 372.

**SB 370** and **SB 371** would expand public schools partnering with higher educational institutions by allowing school districts to use national school lunch funds to provide concurrent courses or technical education options to students in grades eight through twelve.

## **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 last week. It could be considered by the full House as early as tomorrow. 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.

## **STATE CHAMBER/AIA BILL TRACKING**

To date, the House has filed 381 bills and the Senate has filed 384 bills.

The State Chamber/AIA is tracking 189 bills and resolutions.

New bills added to State Chamber/AIA tracking today:

<a href="#"><u>SB 368</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>English, Jane (R)</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Douglas, Charlotte</u></a> <a href="#"><u>(R)</u></a>	Creates a new statewide workforce development system. Renames Board of Career Education as The Career Education
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and Workforce Development Board.


<a href="#"><u>SB 369</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>English, Jane (R)</u></a>	Eliminates specified service areas for two-year colleges and technical schools.
<a href="#"><u>SB 370</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>English, Jane (R)</u></a>	Expands public school partnering with higher educational institution using national school lunch funds to provide concurrent courses or technical education options to students in grades eight through twelve.
<a href="#"><u>SB 371</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>English, Jane (R)</u></a>	Expands public school partnering with higher education institutions using national school lunch funds to provide concurrent courses or technical education options to students in alternative learning environments.
<a href="#"><u>SB 372</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>English, Jane (R)</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Gossage, Bill (R)</u></a>	Eliminates specified service areas for two-year colleges and technical schools.
<a href="#"><u>SB 374</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Elliott, Joyce (D)</u></a>	Places a moratorium on all statewide mandated tests except the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers-developed tests and provides for evaluation of the statewide testing and assessment system generally. (Shell bill)
<a href="#"><u>SB 382</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Williams, Eddie Joe (R)</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Bell, Nate (R)</u></a>	Requires a study of consolidating state agencies into 10 principal departments; specifies entities that would be transferred to the 10 named departments.
<a href="#"><u>SB 383</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Williams, Eddie Joe (R)</u></a>	Allows public defenders to file a claim against a person's state income tax refund for unpaid public defender user fees.

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.

## **THIS WEEK AT THE CAPITOL**

[Committee Meetings for Tuesday, February 17, 2015](#)

## JOINT

7:30 AM	Room B, MAC	<a href="#">JBC-SPECIAL LANGUAGE</a>	
9:00 AM	Room A, MAC	<a href="#">JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a> 

## HOUSE

10:00 AM	Room 138	<a href="#">EDUCATION COMMITTEE- HOUSE</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>
10:00 AM	Room 149	<a href="#">JUDICIARY COMMITTEE- HOUSE</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>
10:00 AM	Room 151	<a href="#">REVENUE &amp; TAXATION- HOUSE</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>
10:00 AM	Room 130	<a href="#">PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND LABOR COMMITTEE- HOUSE</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>
10:00 AM	Room B, MAC	<a href="#">PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION- HOUSE</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>

## SENATE

10:00 AM	Room 171	<a href="#">INSURANCE &amp; COMMERCE - SENATE</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>
10:00 AM	Room 309	<a href="#">AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY &amp; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - SENATE</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>
10:00 AM	OSC	<a href="#">STATE AGENCIES &amp; GOVT'L AFFAIRS-SENATE</a>	<a href="#">Agenda</a>

## **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](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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