



## Daily Legislative Update

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

58th Day of 90<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

### TODAY AT THE CAPITOL

House convenes at 1:30 p.m.

Senate convenes at 1:30 p.m.

*To view the most current and complete Legislative meeting schedule, go to:*

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

### YESTERDAY AT THE CAPITOL

#### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

**HB 1489** by Rep. Lane Jean and Senators Jim Hendren and Bart Hester passed 73-11 in the House yesterday afternoon. If you made contact with a legislator, please thank them for their vote. You can view the vote at:

<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2015/2015R/Pages/votes.aspx?rcsnum=739&votechamber=House>

The bill has been transmitted to the Senate and assigned to the Senate Public, Health, Welfare and Labor Committee.

This bill changes the calculation of an individual's unemployment insurance benefit from the highest quarter of earnings to the average of an employee's last four quarters of earnings. It also reduces the weeks of unemployment insurance benefits in Arkansas from 25 to 20 weeks.

The purpose of this bill is to help the Arkansas UI Trust Fund improve its balance in an effort to meet the U.S. Department of Labor's (USDOL) solvency's requirement, which is currently calculated at \$642 million. The Fund has approximately \$230 million now. The Fund is solely funded by employers who paid up to an additional \$195 per employee to retire debt that arose in 2009 from the Great Recession. Our desire is to prevent this from ever repeating.

## TAXPAYER FAIRNESS

**SB 490** by Sen. Bill Sample and Rep. Ken Bragg passed 29-0 in the Senate yesterday afternoon. If you made contact with a legislator, please thank them for their vote. You can see the vote here:

<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2015/2015R/Pages/votes.aspx?rcsnum=695&votechamber=Senate>

The bill has been transmitted to the House, but not yet been assigned to a committee. House Tax would seem to be the only committee option.

SB 490 seeks to eliminate requiring taxpayers to pay taxes before they can challenge a tax ruling, lessens the burden of proof for tax payers, makes more fair the application of statute of limitations, creates transparency in Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) rulings, moves the corporate income tax filing date back one month after IRS filings are due and other provisions.

DFA's concerns have been satisfied and the Cities and Counties did not oppose an increase of the tax rebate period from six months to one year, which has been amended into the bill. The primary purpose of this bill is to get Arkansas out of the Council of State Taxation's business tax environment list of the five worst states.

## PENDING STATE CHAMBER/AIA PRIORITY BILLS

### WORKERS' COMPENSATION

**HB 1768** Rep, Matthew Shepherd, Senators John Cooper, David Sanders, Senate President Jonathan Dismang and House Speaker Jeremy Gillam was filed yesterday. It is the State Chamber/AIA's Workers' Compensation bill. The bill seeks to solve the unfunded liability of the Workers' Compensation Commission's Death and Permanent Disability Trust Fund by stopping new claims from going into the Fund. It would also restore subrogation to workers' compensation cases. Please ask your legislators to support HB 1768.

**HB 1761** by Rep. Micah Neal was also filed yesterday at the State Chamber/AIA's request. This was filed as a place holder for potential additional legislation we might choose to pursue. Our Committee will meet this week to discuss.

### TIPAC

**SB 204** by Senator Jane English and Rep. Karilyn Brown is set to be heard as a Special Order of Business in the House Judiciary Committee on March 19. Please ask your Representative to support SB 204.

The Transparency in Private Attorney Contracting Act (TIPAC) ensures contingency fee contracts in the office of the Attorney General are awarded openly and that citizens receive the maximum practicable amount of any settlement or award.

TIPAC promotes competitive bidding and transparent contracting by requiring the Attorney General to: a) Determine, in writing, that a contingency fee arrangement will be both cost-effective and in the best interests of the state; b) Request proposals on a state website before entering into a contingency fee contract; c) Publish executed contingency fee contracts on a state website; and d) Publish information on any fees paid pursuant to contingency fee contracts.

TIPAC ensures that government attorneys retain control of litigation and that consumers, victims and taxpayers receive their fair share of any recovery by: a) Establishing reasonable, tiered limits on contingency fees as a percent of a state's recovery, b) Allowing private attorneys to receive, in addition to any contingent fee, only reasonable costs and expenses as determined from detailed records maintained throughout the litigation; and c) Requiring government attorneys to participate in all settlement negotiations and retain ultimate control of the litigation.

## **TAXES**

### **MANUFACTURING REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT PARTS SALES TAX EXEMPTION SB**

**332** by Sen. Jake Files and Rep. Joe Jett awaits consideration in the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee. This bill's revenue impact is keeping it and about a half billion dollars of tax cut proposals on hold.

This bill seeks a further then complete reduction in the sales taxes paid by manufacturers on their repair and replacement parts. It would eliminate all but the constitutional sales taxes from 4.875 percent to 2.5 percent on July 1, 2015 and to zero on July 1, 2016. As filed, it would have eliminated the Direct Pay Permit requirement to take advantage of the tax reductions. We are working with DFA to create a Limited Direct Pay Permit that will satisfy concerns of DFA and the State Chamber/AIA.

This bill is an effort to make Arkansas more competitive with our surrounding states where we are badly out of step. We are working to position this bill to gain priority for revenue that may become available to use for tax cuts. Your contacts can help gain the needed priority. Please ask your Senator to support SB 332

### **PROHIBIT CONTINGENT FEE AUDITS**

**SB 470** by Sen. Ronald Caldwell would prohibit state agencies and political subdivisions from engaging auditors or appraisers on a contingency fee basis. It is being held in the Senate State Agencies and Governmental Affairs Committee while we work with the Auditor's office and a variety of interests to resolve concerns.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The State Chamber/AIA's workforce development bill package is still being worked on. Our bills include:

**SB 368** by Sen. Jane English, Rep. Charlotte Douglass and others

**SB 369** by Sen. English

**SB 370** by Sen. English

**SB 371** by Sens. Jane English and Bobby Pierce

**SB 372** by Sen. English, Rep. Bill Gossage and others

## BILLS WE OPPOSE

### ADEQ PERMITTING

**HB 1701** by Rep. Warwick Sabin will add layers of regulation and slow the permitting process at the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). This will reduce Arkansas's competitiveness with other states in industrial recruitment. The additional notice created by HB 1701 is redundant – every permit type at the ADEQ has public notice requirements which are promulgated subject to public comment, review and legislative oversight. HB1701 is unnecessary government regulation. The State Chamber/AIA joins the Arkansas Environmental Federation in opposing this bill.

## GUNS ON EMPLOYERS' PROPERTY

**SB 492** by Sen. Jimmy Hickey and Rep. DeAnn Vaught remains on the agenda in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The bill would authorize employees with concealed-carry permits (CHCL) to keep a handgun locked and stored out of site in a vehicle on the employer's property, but not in company cars.

**SB 573** by Sen. Alan Clark would prohibit a private employer from prohibiting or attempting to prevent an employee who is a concealed-carry licensee from having a handgun in his or her private vehicle on the employer's parking lot. It also remains on the Senate Judiciary Committee agenda.

Passage of a "parking lot" bill is a high priority for the National Rifle Association (NRA). The State Chamber/AIA opposes both of these bills because we believe the business owner's private property rights should supersede the individual's lawful right to possess a firearm.

## **HOLD HARMLESS CLAUSES UNENFORCABLE**

**SB 726** by Sen. Jake Files is similar to a bill filed two years ago that had the construction community split and the Associated Industries of Arkansas opposed. This bill rewrites the provisions that declare a construction contract with a hold-harmless clause to be unenforceable. The bill seeks to clarify that covenants and clauses are unenforceable when they are written into construction agreements that require any dispute resolution to take place in another state. The bill also provides that indemnification clauses shall not exceed any amounts that are greater than the degree of negligence or fault attributable to the indemnitor, its agents, representatives, subcontractors or suppliers. The State Chamber/AIA Executive Committee has decided to maintain the position established in 2013 that the Associated Industries of Arkansas is opposed to this bill while the State Chamber of Commerce is neutral.

## **EMINENT DOMAIN**

**HB 1490** by Rep. Bob Ballinger would strike procedures for using eminent domain by various entities, making all subject to a procedure prescribed in a new code section created by this bill. A circuit court jury would decide compensation of land owners. It is on the House Judiciary Committee agenda. The State Chamber/AIA opposes this bill.

At least two shell bills were filed yesterday that address eminent domain. They are **HB 1870** by Rep. Warwick Sabin and **HB 1908** by Rep. Charlotte Douglas.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES ISSUES**

Rep. Greg Leding was kind enough to make amendments to two of his three bills that continue to be of concern to the business community. Unfortunately, the changes do not solve the concerns of the employment lawyers we consulted.

**HB1276** requires employers with more than four employees to provide a detailed pay stub to each of their employees on at least a monthly basis.

**HB 1277** requires employers, in a dispute with an employee, to pay all wages that the employer concedes are due to the employee without condition.

**HB 1275** provides tax credits of up to \$4,000 per employee per year for employers who provide family and medical leave to employees, providing that under the \$4,000 limit, the credit shall be equal to 25 percent of the wages paid to the employee while on leave. This bill appears to create a revenue issue for the state as well as a potential for expansion and/or modification of employers' leave provisions. It is on the House Revenue and Taxation Committee agenda.

## EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS

**HB 1618** by Rep. Donnie Copeland would prohibit employers from reviewing an applicant's criminal record until the employer has extended a conditional offer of employment to the applicant. It also sets bounds on the effect of the criminal record on employment. We believe this bill eliminates the "check box" on employee applications. It has been referred to the House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee.

## PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGEMENT

Three recently filed bills address the issue of Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM). There has been an ongoing battle between the PBMs and the Pharmacy Association for almost a decade. Historically the State Chamber/AIA has supported the PBMs because their existence reduces the cost of pharmacy benefits that are paid for through employer health plans.

PBM lobbying interests provided us talking points on their viewpoint that we have been running for a few days. As in the past, the opposing side is accusing the PBM lobby of being inaccurate. In the past, the PBM lobby has made similar counter accusations.

The State Chamber/AIA has historically opposed any legislation that would increase health care costs paid for by employers.

The bills at issue this session are below and the comments are taken directly from bill summaries prepared by the Arkansas Legislative Digest:

**SB 688** by Sen. Ron Caldwell and Rep. Michelle Gray would require PBMs to update their maximum allowable cost lists no less than 7 days from an increase of 10 percent or more in the pharmacy acquisition cost; specifying the content of pharmacy acquisition cost; specifying the content of reasonable administrative appeal procedures; allowing the State Board of Pharmacy to fine and discipline PBMs; allowing pharmacists to decline to provide services to a PBM if a drug is purchased below the pharmacy acquisition cost as a result of maximum allowable cost list.

**SB 542** by Sen. Jason Rapert and Rep. Dan Douglass changes the name of the Fair Disclosure of State funded "Payments for Pharmacists' Service Act" to the "Fair Disclosure and Patient Rights Regarding Payment for Pharmacists' Service Act." The bill creates definitions for copayment and provider choice. The bill also requires PBMs to provide quarterly written or electronic explanations of benefits itemized by individual claim to covered individuals; requiring PBMs to obtain an individual's consent before altering provider choice; prohibiting PBMs from charging a copayment to an individual that is greater than what the benefits PBM paid to a pharmacy service provider for the services originally.

**SB 487** by Sen. Jason Rapert and Rep. Dan Douglass adds PBMs to the definition of third-party administrator for self-insured plans, multiple employer trusts or multiple employer welfare arrangements.

## **BILLS WE SUPPORT**

**HB 1733** by Rep. Bruce Cozart would authorize the Education Commissioner to place a school district in academic distress into an Achievement School District. It also would authorize the Board of Education to issue binding recommendations regarding academic practices and staffing to schools in academic distress. Further, it would establish achievement school districts under the Department of Education to provide operational oversight to school districts in academic distress. It would exempt teachers working in achievement school districts from certain provisions regarding the incorporation of personnel policies into teachers' contracts. Finally it would authorize the Education Commissioner to remove a granted charter for a public charter school that is designed an achievement school district. The State Chamber/AIA supports this bill.

## **PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS**

**SB 426** by Sen. Jon Woods and Rep. Bruce Cozart would prohibit public agency construction contracts from containing terms or bid specifications that encourage or discourage potential contractors from entering into collective bargaining agreements. It is on the House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee agenda. The State Chamber/AIA supports this bill.

## **NEW BILLS**

### **LICENSING AND PUBLIC REGULATION REVIEW**

There is a general desire by many legislators to address overregulation. The business community is always concerned about unnecessary and abusive regulation. However, legislative efforts so far have been overbroad, like **HB 1158** that we reported about earlier. It would have put every licensing authority at issue and subject to legal challenge.

**HB 1582** by Rep. Bill Gossage and Rep. Jim Dotson also takes an overbroad approach by requiring state boards, commissions, departments, officers, or other authorities of state government to host a public meeting in each calendar quarter in each Congressional district annually.

**HB 2001** by Rep. Richard Womack was filed yesterday. It appears to be attempting a similar effort as HB 1158 with some degree of softening. It is currently being reviewed by the large coalition that opposed HB 1158.

**HB 1823** by Rep. Jim Dotson was filed as a shell bill yesterday. It says the purpose of this bill is to amend the law concerning licensing, registration, and certification for certain professions and to amend the law concerning reinstatement of licenses and certification.

We will keep an eye out for amendments to HB 1823 and will continue to discuss HB 2001 and the issue in general with sponsors and legislative leaders.

## **CONTINUING BILLS**

### **FORMER EMPLOYEE REFERENCE FORMAT**

**HB 1637** by Rep. Camille Bennett allows employer references requested from previous employers to be delivered in the media and format convenient to the former employer. It is on the House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee agenda.

### **UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FEDERAL COMPLIANCE**

**SB 790** by Sen. Jeremy Hutchinson is the Department of Workforce Services cleanup bill to conform Arkansas law to federal law. The bill clarifies termination of unemployment benefits to persons terminated for testing positive for an illegal drug. It also makes a determination of liability for unemployment tax binding unless the employer timely requests an administrative determination. It has been referred to the Senate Public Health Welfare and Labor Committee.

### **LEGISLATIVE SUPOENA AUTHORITY**

**HB 1643** by Rep. Richard Womack and Sen. Bart Hester specifies that the authority to administer oaths, take depositions and issue subpoenas extends to the chair or a member acting as chair of all committees of the General Assembly. It has been referred to the Committee on House Rules.

## **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSALS**

The House State Agencies continued its review of House Joint Resolutions (HJR) proposing amendments to the state's Constitution yesterday and will continue looking at the HJRs this week. A joint meeting with the Senate is anticipated next week.

The State Chamber/AIA Governmental Affairs Committee met after the filing deadline for Joint Resolutions and developed the following preliminary positions. There are several Resolutions that were filed as shells for which we will need to review the amendments to determine a position and there is another group of Resolutions that we have no position on.

### The Joint Resolutions Proposals the State Chamber/AIA Supports:

HJR 1002 – Rep. Dan Douglass - would eliminate the fiscal sessions

HJR 1012 – Rep. Nate Bell - authorizes the General Assembly to enact law declaring a lone candidate for office to be elected without appearing on the election ballot.

HJR 1021 – Rep. Greg Leding - would exempt from personal property tax that property consumed in the normal daily operations of a business.

HJR 1027 – Rep. Jack Ladyman - increases term limits of circuit clerks and country judges from two to four years and authorizes the quorum courts to refer to the voters of the county the question of two or four year terms for court members.

SJR 3 - Sen. Eddie Joe Williams - would remove the provision that strips the Governor of his or her powers and duties when absent from the state.

SJR 5 – Sen. Bryan King - would increase from two to four years the terms of elected county officials and authorize a quorum court to refer the question of its term lengths to referendum.

SJR 9 – Sen. Keith Ingram and Rep. Deborah Ferguson - would repeal the fiscal session and require a two-thirds vote of approval to extend the regular session beyond 60 calendar days.

SJR 13 – Sen. Bart Hester - increases the term of sheriff from two to four years.

SJR 16 – Sen. Jon Woods - would allow public entities to finance economic development activities with financial incentives.

### Proposals the State Chamber/AIA Favors

HJR 1022 – Rep. Charles Armstrong - would exempt certain veterans from property taxes

HJR 1023 – Rep. Kim Hammer - amendment concerning the prosecution of certain alleged offenses committed by public servants.

HJR 1024 – Rep. Julie Mayberry - provides that candidates for Lieutenant Governor be chosen as a running mate by candidates for Governor and that they be elected as a pair.

HJR 1025 – Rep. Julie Mayberry - amendment regarding the selection, powers and duties of the Lieutenant Governor.

HJR 1026 – Rep. Julie Mayberry - would abolish the office of Lieutenant Governor.

SJR6 –Sen. Alan Clark - authorizes use of lottery proceeds for scholarships to vocational-technical schools and technical institutes and colleges.

### The Joint Resolution Proposals the State Chamber/AIA Opposes:

HJR 1008 – Rep. Mickey Gates - repeals the requirement that public notices be printed in newspapers and allows the General Assembly to set the manner in which required public notices will be published.

HJR 1013 – Rep. Nate Bell - limits the amount of state funds expended for public education to a certain percentage of overall state expenditures.

HJR 1017 – Rep. Jim Dotson - provides that the State Highway Commission be governed in the same manner as other state agencies.

HJR 1018 – Rep. Jim Dotson - provides that the Game and Fish Commission be governed in the same manner as other state agencies.

HJR 1019 – Rep. Jim Dotson - provides the Game and Fish Commission be governed in the same manner as other state agencies.

SJR 2 – Sen. Alan Clark & Rep. Kim Hammer - would limit House service to five terms and Senate service to three terms, but no more than 16 years combined service.

SJR 10 – Sen. Keith Ingram - would authorize cities to increase the portion of property tax supporting retirement plans for municipal police and firefighters.

SJR 11 – Sen. Bryan King - amendment relating to the selection of members of the Game and Fish Commission.

SJR 14 – Sen. Jeremy Hutchinson - limits the amount of punitive damages that may be awarded in civil cases.

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

Yesterday was the last day for bills to be filed, with legislators filing 462 measures. It will take us a few days to sort through the filings and add bills to our tracking.

This session, the House filed 1,007 bills and 27 joint resolutions, while the Senate filed 1,055 bills and 16 joint resolutions for a total of 2,105 measures filed in the 2015 session. In the 2013 session, legislators filed 2,530 bills and resolutions. In the 2011 session, 2,261 items were filed.

The State Chamber/AIA is tracking 488 bills and resolutions.

New bills added to State Chamber/AIA tracking today:

[HB 1733](#) [Cozart, Bruce \(R\)](#) Gives the Commissioner of Education the authority to assign an academically distressed school or school district to the Achievement School District and to issue binding

		recommendations concerning academic practices and staffing of the school(s).
<a href="#">HB 1761</a>	<a href="#">Neal, Micah (R)</a>	To amend laws relating to total disability benefit determinations and employee misconduct under the workers' compensation law. (Shell bill)
<a href="#">HB 1768</a>	<a href="#">Shepherd, Matthew (R)</a> <a href="#">Cooper, John (R)</a>	Declares a workers' compensation insurance carrier's absolute right to subrogation, prohibiting settlements that limit the carrier's recovery of lien; provides that carriers must pay death and permanent total disability benefits, rather than the Trust Fund
<a href="#">HB 1770</a>	<a href="#">Shepherd, Matthew (R)</a>	Prohibits using a drone to collect surveillance relating to critical infrastructure such as power generation facilities and oil refineries.
<a href="#">HB 1771</a>	<a href="#">Shepherd, Matthew (R)</a>	To amend laws relating to the collection of delinquent taxes on mineral interests. (Shell bill)
<a href="#">HB 1772</a>	<a href="#">Mayberry, Julie (R)</a>	Reduces the maximum discount used to compensate retailers for remitting sales tax payments, from \$1,000 to \$500.
<a href="#">HB 1773</a>	<a href="#">Lowery, Mark (R)</a>	To establish regulation of transportation network companies. (Shell bill)
<a href="#">HB 1774</a>	<a href="#">Lowery, Mark (R)</a>	Amends the criminal offense of the unlawful recording of a conversation to include conversations when the person is in an employment relationship with another party to the communication.
<a href="#">HB 1775</a>	<a href="#">Mayberry, Julie (R)</a> <a href="#">Hutchinson, Jeremy (R)</a>	Regulates interchange fees that a payment card network charges for electronic payment transactions, prohibiting separate listing of state or local taxes or fees on the invoice.
<a href="#">HB 1777</a>	<a href="#">Tosh, Dwight (R)</a>	To amend laws relating to permitting a process server to access utility company information. (Shell bill)
<a href="#">HB 1781</a>	<a href="#">Hickerson, Mary (R)</a>	To amend laws relating to the state highway system. (Shell bill)
<a href="#">HB 1794</a>	<a href="#">Gossage, Bill (R)</a>	Income Tax Credit (Retired Law Enforcement;

		Cold Case Work)
<a href="#">HB 1804</a>	<a href="#">Eubanks, Jon (R)</a>	State Agencies (Private Attorneys; Contingency Fee Contracts Shell Bill)
<a href="#">HB 1809</a>	<a href="#">Douglas, Charlotte (R)</a>	Utilities (Eminent Domain; Adjacent Commercially Viable Property)
<a href="#">HB 1815</a>	<a href="#">Love, Fred (D)</a>	Legislative Affairs (Racial and Ethnic Impact Statements; Shell Bill)
<a href="#">HB 1825</a>	<a href="#">Davis, Andy (R)</a>	Economic Development (Amendment 82 Projects; Bonding Limitation Clarified)
<a href="#">HB 1843</a>	<a href="#">Murdock, Reginald (D)</a>	Contractors and Construction (Justification in Awarding to Higher Bidder; Shell Bill)
<a href="#">HB 1870</a>	<a href="#">Sabin, Warwick (D)</a>	Land (Eminent Domain by Private Pipeline Companies; Shell Bill)
<a href="#">HB 1879</a>	<a href="#">Hammer, Kim (R)</a>	Marriage Services (Right to Refuse Service)
<a href="#">HB 1890</a>	<a href="#">Davis, Andy (R)</a> <a href="#">Rapert, Jason (R)</a>	Taxation (Food Tax; Shell Bill)
<a href="#">HB 1895</a>	<a href="#">Mayberry, Julie (R)</a> <a href="#">Elliott, Joyce (D)</a>	Schools (College and Career Coaches Program; Priority District Status Repealed)
<a href="#">HB 1901</a>	<a href="#">Sabin, Warwick (D)</a> <a href="#">Woods, Jon (R)</a>	Ethics Laws (Shell Bill)
<a href="#">HB 1903</a>	<a href="#">Sabin, Warwick (D)</a>	Workforce Services Law (Independent Contractors; Shell Bill)
<a href="#">HB 1908</a>	<a href="#">Douglas, Charlotte (R)</a>	Property Rights (Eminent Domain)
<a href="#">HB 1916</a>	<a href="#">Gonzales, Justin (R)</a>	Taxation (Report on Revenue From Taxes and Exemptions; Shell Bill)
<a href="#">HB 1928</a>	<a href="#">Pitsch, Mat (R)</a>	Taxation (Municipal Park Construction Exemption; Shell Bill)
<a href="#">HB 1930</a>	<a href="#">Leding, Greg (D)</a>	Sales Tax (Golf Facilities, Tennis Clubs; Membership Dues)
<a href="#">HB 1938</a>	<a href="#">Collins, Charlie (R)</a>	Health Insurance Marketplace (Shell Bill)

<a href="#">HB 1940</a>	<a href="#">Gates, Mickey (R)</a>	Taxation (Charitable Giving; Withdrawal of Stock)
<a href="#">HB 1941</a>	<a href="#">Neal, Micah (R)</a>	FOIA (Advertising and Promotion Tax Information; Exemption Created)
<a href="#">HB 1942</a>	<a href="#">Neal, Micah (R)</a>	State Agencies (Appointments; Shell Bill)
<a href="#">HB 1943</a>	<a href="#">Gossage, Bill (R)</a>	Schools (Workforce Training; Shell Bill)
<a href="#">HB 1947</a>	<a href="#">Meeks, David (R)</a>	Daylight Savings Time (Year-Round Standard Time; Shell Bill)
<a href="#">HB 1948</a>	<a href="#">Leding, Greg (D)</a>	Higher Education (New Jobs Training Act; Shell Bill)
<a href="#">HB 1949</a>	<a href="#">Dotson, Jim (R)</a>	Taxation (Amended Returns for Overpayment; Shell Bill)
<a href="#">HB 1950</a>	<a href="#">Leding, Greg (D)</a>	Civil Rights Act of 1993 (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity Added)
<a href="#">HB 1957</a>	<a href="#">Hodges, Grant (R)</a> <a href="#">Hester, Bart (R)</a>	Labor Organizations (School Employees; Join/Terminate Membership Time Frames Prohibited)
<a href="#">HB 1958</a>	<a href="#">Armstrong, Charles (D)</a>	Schools (National School Lunch Categorical Funding; Shell Bill)
<a href="#">HB 1966</a>	<a href="#">Copeland, Donnie (R)</a>	Motor Vehicle Sales (Sales Tax; Insurance Settlement Sales)
<a href="#">HB 1971</a>	<a href="#">Gossage, Bill (R)</a>	Higher Education (Two-Year College Funding; Shell Bill)
<a href="#">HB 1978</a>	<a href="#">Collins, Charlie (R)</a>	Health Insurance Marketplace (Shell Bill)
<a href="#">HB 1980</a>	<a href="#">Sabin, Warwick (D)</a>	Utilities (Definition, Provider Exemptions; Shell Bill)
<a href="#">HB 1985</a>	<a href="#">Bell, Nate (R)</a>	Legislative Affairs (Testimony; Shell Bill)
<a href="#">HB 1986</a>	<a href="#">Bennett, Camille (D)</a>	Taxation (Advertising and Promotion Taxes; No A & P Commission Required)
<a href="#">HB 1997</a>	<a href="#">Magie, Steve (D)</a>	Labor, Employers and Employees (Restrictions on Current and Former Employees; Shell Bill)
<a href="#">HB 2001</a>	<a href="#">Womack, Richard (R)</a>	Requires a new occupational regulation to explicitly state that it supersedes a person's right

	<a href="#">Hester, Bart (R)</a>	to a lawful occupation that is established by this Act.
<a href="#">SB 853</a>	<a href="#">Sanders, David (R)</a>	Amends provisions relating to campaign finance. (Shell bill)
<a href="#">SB 860</a>	<a href="#">Hickey, Jimmy (R)</a>	Amends provisions concerning initiatives, referenda and constitutional amendments. (Shell bill)
<a href="#">SB 861</a>	<a href="#">Hickey, Jimmy (R)</a> <a href="#">Hickerson, Mary (R)</a>	Restricts special permits for transport of sealed containerized cargo units to one vehicle for one trip completed within six days of the issuance of the permit or for a period of one year along a specified route.
<a href="#">SB 871</a>	<a href="#">Hickey, Jimmy (R)</a> <a href="#">Hickerson, Mary (R)</a>	Restricts special permits for transport of sealed containerized cargo units to one vehicle for one trip completed within six days of the permit or for a period of one year along a specified route. (Same as SB 861)
<a href="#">SB 873</a>	<a href="#">Pierce, Bobby (D)</a>	Increases the homestead property tax credit for property owners 65 years of age or older to \$500 per year.
<a href="#">SB 881</a>	<a href="#">Rapert, Jason (R)</a> <a href="#">Collins, Charlie (R)</a>	Amends various provisions concerning financial and regulatory insurance laws. (Shell bill)
<a href="#">SB 882</a>	<a href="#">Rapert, Jason (R)</a>	Prohibits consumer lawsuit lending or purchasing of a contingent right to a share of a settlement; makes violations a deceptive and unconscionable trade practice and subject to its penalties.
<a href="#">SB 888</a>	<a href="#">English, Jane (R)</a>	Amends provisions concerning contracting with private attorneys by the Attorney General. (Shell bill)
<a href="#">SB 889</a>	<a href="#">Clark, Alan (R)</a>	Prohibits motor vehicle insurers from denying claims for damages caused by an insured vehicle that was stolen based solely on the fact that a police report of the theft has not been filed.
<a href="#">SB 891</a>	<a href="#">English, Jane (R)</a>	Establishes the Workforce Initiative Act. (Shell bill)
<a href="#">SB 909</a>	<a href="#">Hester, Bart (R)</a>	Amends provisions relating to the administrative

		responsibilities of the Arkansas Supreme Court. (Shell bill)
<a href="#"><u>SB 913</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Hester, Bart (R)</u></a>	Excludes from the definition of "Employment" for purposes of the Department of Workforce Services those services described in 26 U.S.C. § 3306(c)(20).
<a href="#"><u>SB 914</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Sanders, David (R)</u></a>	Amends provisions to increase healthcare transparency. (Shell bill)
<a href="#"><u>SB 916</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Sample, Bill (R)</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Hickerson, Mary (R)</u></a>	Requires a portion of the sales and use tax revenue collected from sellers who do not have a physical presence in Arkansas be dedicated to the State Highway and Transportation Department Fund.
<a href="#"><u>SB 918</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Williams, Eddie Joe (R)</u></a>	Revises provisions concerning the receipt of payments by the Governor relating to economic development projects. (Shell bill)
<a href="#"><u>SB 924</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Files, Jake (R)</u></a>	Creates an income tax credit for the cost of capital improvements of water transportation properties and facilities.
<a href="#"><u>SB 925</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Files, Jake (R)</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Rushing, Laurie (R)</u></a>	Exempts from certain taxes and regulations certain out-of-state businesses operating in Arkansas during a disaster response period.
<a href="#"><u>SB 930</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Chesterfield, Linda (D)</u></a>	Establishes a fair dismissal act for employees of state-supported institutions of higher education.
<a href="#"><u>SB 932</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Hutchinson, Jeremy (R)</u></a>	Amends provisions concerning the definition of "independent contractor". (Shell bill)
<a href="#"><u>SB 933</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Rapert, Jason (R)</u></a>	Provides a procedure for removal and replacement by the governor of an agency, board or commission member who is not subject to confirmation by the Senate.
<a href="#"><u>SB 935</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Rice, Terry (R)</u></a>	Provides that an exemption from the requirement to obtain a certificate of public convenience held by a member cooperative of a generation and transmission cooperative extends to the generation and transmission cooperative.
<a href="#"><u>SB 936</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Rice, Terry (R)</u></a>	Creates the Broadband Infrastructure Deployment

and Maintenance Security Act to regulate access to railroad crossings and rights-of-way by public utilities, telecommunications providers and video service providers. (Shell bill)

- [SB 937](#) [Rice, Terry \(R\)](#)  
[Vines, John \(D\)](#) Authorizes release of a mortgage lien and recovery of property by affidavit where the lien holder fails to acknowledge satisfaction of the lien within 60 days of request.
- [SB 948](#) [Sample, Bill \(R\)](#) Amends provisions relating to the state highway system. (Shell bill)
- [SB 961](#) [Cheatham, Eddie \(D\)](#) Amends provisions concerning college and career readiness standards for career and technical education programs. (Shell bill)
- [SB 967](#) [Woods, Jon \(R\)](#)  
[Sabin, Warwick \(D\)](#) Amends provisions of Arkansas ethics law pertaining to candidates, state officials and state employees. (Shell bill)
- [SB 968](#) [Burnett, David \(D\)](#) Amends provisions concerning school elections. (Shell bill)
- [SB 975](#) [Stubblefield, Gary \(R\)](#) Amends provisions concerning the authority of a governmental entity to regulate the free exercise of religion. (Shell bill)
- [SB 988](#) [Sample, Bill \(R\)](#) Amends provisions concerning the licensing of motor vehicles. (Shell bill)
- [SB 990](#) [Sample, Bill \(R\)](#) Amends provisions regulating motor vehicles. (Shell bill)
- [SB 994](#) [Caldwell, Ronald \(R\)](#) Rural Economic development. (Shell bill)
- [SB 995](#) [Elliott, Joyce \(D\)](#) Addresses the need for certain specialized professionals (Shell bill)
- [SB 1003](#) [King, Bryan \(R\)](#) Amends provision concerning the Internal Audit Section of the Department of Finance and Administration.
- [SB 1004](#) [Woods, Jon \(R\)](#)  
[Neal, Micah \(R\)](#) Amends provisions regulating methods used by public utilities, telecommunications providers and video service providers to access poles owned by

		a municipal electric utility. (Shell bill)
<a href="#">SB 1017</a>	<a href="#">Hester, Bart (R)</a>	Amends provisions concerning the tax on food and other grocery items. (Shell bill)
<a href="#">SB 1027</a>	<a href="#">Woods, Jon (R)</a>	Authorizes holders of a vested alcohol permit to brand each of the businesses operated under the permit with the same name, logo or both.
<a href="#">SB 1031</a>	<a href="#">Woods, Jon (R)</a>	Amends provisions concerning business identification among multiple permit liquor businesses. (Shell bill)
<a href="#">SB 1040</a>	<a href="#">Sample, Bill (R)</a> <a href="#">Bragg, Ken (R)</a>	Reduces the interest rate for deficiencies and overpayments of state tax from 10 percent to 6 percent effective January 1, 2016.
<a href="#">SB 1048</a>	<a href="#">Rapert, Jason (R)</a>	Amends provisions concerning the assessment of property taxes on livestock. (Shell bill)

*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.*

### **LEGISLATIVE SESSION CONTACT INFORMATION**

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