



## Daily Legislative Update

Friday, January 9, 2015

90<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

### 2015 SESSION OPENS MONDAY

Arkansas's 90<sup>th</sup> General Assembly convenes at noon on Monday, January 12, 2015.

House Speaker-Elect Jeremy Gillam and Senate President Jonathan Dismang have said publicly they are targeting an 85-day session. There is no limit on the length of Regular Sessions in Arkansas, but historically they have ended in early to mid-April. Saturdays and Sundays count as session days, so an 85-day target would be April 6.

Asa Hutchinson will be sworn in as Arkansas's 46<sup>th</sup> Governor at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 13 in the House Chamber of the State Capitol.

Official public Inaugural events on Tuesday include:

- 8:30 – 9:30 a.m., Inaugural Church Service, Immanuel Baptist Church
- 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., The Inaugural Address, Capitol Steps, State Capitol
- 1:00 – 2:30 p.m., The Governor's Reception, Rotunda, State Capitol

The House of Representatives and the Senate will meet in a joint session at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 13, 2015 in the House Chamber to declare election results, to administer the oath of office to elected constitutional officers, and to hear an address by the Honorable Asa Hutchinson, Governor of the State of Arkansas.

### BILL FILING

Several appropriation bills were filed this week bringing the pre-filed bill totals to 44 in the House and 22 in the Senate, plus some resolutions.

We will review ALL bills filed (typically 2,500 to 3,000) during the session and identify bills we believe will have an impact on businesses and/or the business environment in Arkansas. These bills will be added to our tracking list (historically 500 to 700) in the following categories:

- [Banking & Financial](#)
- [Constitutional Amendment](#)
- [Economic Development](#)
- [Education P20 & Workforce](#)
- [Energy, Environment, Utilities](#)
- [Local & State Government](#)
- [Healthcare & Health Insurance](#)
- [Insurance-Property & Casualty](#)
- [Taxes-Income](#)
- [Legal](#)
- [Miscellaneous](#)
- [Taxes-Property & Miscellaneous](#)
- [Construction & Real Estate](#)
- [Retail, Merchants, Technology](#)
- [Rules-Ethics, Lobbying, Voting](#)
- [Taxes-Sales & Use](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Labor & Employment / UI](#)
- [Workers' Compensation](#)

Each day we will list the new tracked bills in this report and then all tracked bills can be found on our website by clicking [here](#).

Pre-filed bills already placed in our tracking:

[HB 1002](#)     [Sabin, Warwick \(D\)](#)     [Woods, Jon \(R\)](#)     To amend and make clarifications to ethics laws. (shell bill)

[HB 1003](#)     [Meeks, Stephen \(R\)](#)     Removes prohibitive-cost exemption for public entities installing shielded outdoor lighting, instead creating a waiver process; places requirements on lighting installations for highways and signage, prohibits excessive light trespass, more.

[HB 1004](#)     [Meeks, Stephen \(R\)](#)     Requires utility companies to purchase net excess generation monthly from net-metering customers at the utility's avoided costs of wholesale power minus a 10 percent fee. Requires separate billing and crediting for facilities with a common owner.

<a href="#">HB 1006</a>	<a href="#">Bell, Nate (R)</a>	To join and participate in an interstate compact seeking to initiate an Article V amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would limit federal outstanding debt to 105 percent of the current level.
<a href="#">HB 1007</a>	<a href="#">Linck, Kelley (R)</a>	Requires state income tax rate reductions in the amount that is attributable to any new sales taxes levied on out-of-state sellers, should federal law allow collection of such tax.
<a href="#">HB 1008</a>	<a href="#">Murdock, Reginald (D)</a>	To amend laws concerning bidding practices for construction of publicly funded projects; to amend laws concerning retainage of funds in construction contracts. (Shell bill)
<a href="#">HB 1009</a>	<a href="#">Murdock, Reginald (D)</a>	To amend laws concerning construction management. (Shell bill)
<a href="#">SB 2</a>	<a href="#">Dismang, Jonathan (R)</a>	To amend laws concerning legislative review and approval of administrative rules and to implement the newly approved Amendment 42 to Article 5 of the Constitution. (Shell bill)
<a href="#">SB 4</a>	<a href="#">Cooper, John (R)</a> <a href="#">Lundstrum, Robin (R)</a>	Allows terminally ill patients to access investigational or unapproved treatments after considering all other treatment options with a physician; allows manufacturers to make such treatments available to terminal patients.
<a href="#">SB 6</a>	<a href="#">Dismang, Jonathan (R)</a> <a href="#">Gillam, Jeremy (R)</a>	To amend laws related to income tax. (Shell bill)
<a href="#">SB 20</a>	<a href="#">Joint Budget</a>	Appropriates funds to the Workers' Compensation Commission for 2015-2016 operations.

[SJR 1](#)      [Williams, Eddie Joe \(R\)](#)      To propose an amendment to the Constitution regarding civil claims and court procedures. (shell resolution)

## GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS

Governor-elect Hutchinson continues to make appointments to state agencies. Here are some that are of interest to business:

- Public Service Commission
  - Ted Thomas will be the new chairman and will join Elana Wills and Lamar Davis who were re-appointed and appointed by Governor Beebe. Thomas replaces Colette Honorable, who was recently appointed by President Obama to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Davis replaces Butch Reeves.
- Insurance Commissioner
  - Rep. Alan Kerr will replace Jay Bradford. Kerr is completing his three terms in the Arkansas House and has owned an insurance agency in Little Rock for many years.
- Arkansas Economic Development Commission
  - Danny Games has been named Deputy Director and charged with conducting a nationwide search for a new Director. Hutchinson has said the salary of the Director needs to be adjusted upward to make the position more competitive. Director Grant Tennille will work as a contract consultant for a while with AEDC. Games replaces Becky Thompson. Games has a degree in economic development, has worked in economic development and is a former president of the Arkansas Economic Developers association.
- Arkansas Economic Development Council
  - Philip Taldo
  - Mike Carroll
- Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission
  - Larry Bengal was reappointed as Director
- Arkansas Department of Workforce Services
  - Daryl Bassett replaces Artee Williams as Director
- Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission
  - Robert Reynolds
- Arkansas Highway Commission
  - Alec Farmer
- Key Positions Pending
  - Dept. of Finance & Administration, Director Richard Weiss is retiring
  - Workers' Compensation Chief Commissioner, Watson Bell's term expired December 31, 2014
  - ADEQ, Director Teresa Marks retired last fall.

## GRASS ROOTS

A Daily Update will be produced each weekday until the session is over. In addition to providing our bill tracking, we will also provide the day's schedule and our commentary about the bills on

which we are working. The primary purpose of this e-mail is to keep the business community informed and engaged in the legislative process.

From time to time, we will specifically ask for businesses to communicate with legislators about a bill. You may also choose to communicate on your own if a bill is of particular interest to your business. During the session, the best way to communicate with legislators is in person or via phone. The House and Senate take messages at the numbers listed below. A collection of message forms speaks volumes to a legislator. The legislature does not accept faxes and due to the vast quantity of e-mails they receive, e-mail communications can be iffy.

You can find legislator information, bill texts, committee members, committee schedules and agendas, floor calendars and much more on the General Assembly website. A link is below.

We look forward to serving you throughout the 2015 legislative session.

### ***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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