



Daily Legislative Update

90th General Assembly – FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

Tuesday, May 26, 2015

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION TO CONVENE AT 3 PM TODAY

The First Special Session of the 90th General Assembly will convene at 3 p.m. this afternoon. Committees will meet thereafter to consider issues detailed in the Governor's Proclamation. A copy of the Proclamation can be viewed [here](#).

The primary issue for this Special Session is the consideration of an \$87 million bond package that would go toward helping a Lockheed Martin facility in south Arkansas land a contract building a new type of military vehicle.

Talk Business quoted comments that Gov. Hutchinson made to KUAR, "The joint tactical vehicle is so critical. I hope that we can manufacture that in Arkansas and this is the first step in that process of competition that we (provide) financial support for this project and the creation of those jobs,"

The report said 55,000 of the vehicles, which would be a replacement for the Humvee, are expected to be built by the company that is eventually awarded the project. A prototype is to be parked in front of the Capitol Monday morning, the governor says, to show what they're working toward. "We're going to start with a news conference featuring the vehicle that would be made in Camden and that should be exciting for everybody in Arkansas to see."

Lawmakers are also to consider moving the Arkansas presidential primary election up by two months, which Hutchinson predicts could be the most contentious item addressed. It would involve the state joining with other states in the South in an effort to increase the political influence of the region. "I think there will be a few controversies in it," Hutchinson said, "but I just think it's important that every Arkansan have the opportunity to make a difference in the presidential election and that best opportunity is moving the primary to March." The legislature is also to consider merging several state agencies and departments.

The Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and Associated Industries of Arkansas support the Governor's plan to gain authorization to issue bonds to assist Lockheed Martin's ability to gain the military vehicle contract. This letter is being delivered to the General Assembly this morning:

Dear Members of the Arkansas General Assembly:

This week you are faced with an extraordinary challenge and opportunity. In addition to a handful of other legislative concerns, you will have the responsibility to review and vote on an \$87 million Amendment 82 bond authorization. The Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and Associated Industries of Arkansas strongly support and respectfully encourage your approval of this aptly named Super Project.

As you are well aware, this authorization is intended to improve the odds that the U.S. Department of Defense awards Lockheed Martin with a multi-billion, multi-year contract to build and assemble Joint Light Tactical Vehicles in Calhoun County, Arkansas. The award would add approximately 600 jobs to Lockheed Martin's existing footprint. These jobs, with an average salary of \$59,000, will have a significant impact on the quality of life of all in the Camden area, Calhoun and Ouachita Counties, and all of Arkansas.

We note and commend the steps taken by the Arkansas Economic Development Commission to protect this investment and safeguard Arkansas's tax dollars. Among other things, the authorization's claw back provisions protect the new jobs created by Lockheed Martin, protect the wages tied to these jobs, and protect the jobs currently in place for the agreement's 25-year duration. While no deal can be guaranteed, Arkansans can have greater confidence in a more substantial return on their investment.

For more than 40 years, Lockheed Martin and others have developed and built military instruments utilized to protect our men and women in uniform and our allies in conflicts across the globe. This relationship began because of the unique characteristics of the area. It remained because of the high quality of the workforce and people of South Arkansas. This area takes great pride in its role in defending America's freedom for nearly a half century. Your vote in favor of this bond authorization signals that all of us across Arkansas do as well.

On behalf of our 1,300 member-companies all across Arkansas, we urge your consideration and support of this bond authorization.

Signed by

Randy Zook—AR State Chamber/AIA President & CEO

Ray Dillon—Chairman AR State Chamber of Commerce

Bill Reed—Chairman—Associated Industries of Arkansas

TODAY IN THE CAPITOL

Upon Adjournment of Senate	Room 272	TRANSPORTATION, TECHNOLOGY & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS - SENATE	Agenda
Upon Adjournment of Senate	Room 171	JUDICIARY COMMITTEE - SENATE	Agenda
Upon Adjournment of House	Room 149	JUDICIARY COMMITTEE- HOUSE	Agenda
Upon Adjournment of House	B, MAC	PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION- HOUSE	Agenda
Upon Adjournment	4th Floor Conference Room	HOUSE MANAGEMENT	
1:00 PM	Room A, MAC	AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - SENATE	Agenda
1:00 PM	Room A, MAC	AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT- HOUSE	Agenda
3:00 PM		FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION CONVENES	
4:00 PM	Room 207	* DELTA GRASSROOTS CAUCUS	
4:00 PM	OSC	STATE AGENCIES & GOVT'L AFFAIRS-SENATE	Agenda
4:00 PM	Room 309	AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - SENATE	Agenda
4:00 PM	Room 138	AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT- HOUSE	Agenda

OTHER ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED

- Moving the full Arkansas primary elections from May to March
- Moving the General Assembly's fiscal session from February to April
- To consider reorganization of the following state agencies:
 - Merging the Arkansas Department of Rural Services with the Arkansas Economic Development Commission

- Merging the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority with the Arkansas Economic Development Commission
- Merging the Arkansas Building Authority with the Department of Finance and Administration
- Merging the Division of Land Survey and the Arkansas Geographic Information Office
- To make a minor fix to the DWI law that addresses the mental state required to assure continuation of federal highway funds
- To ensure that state law aligns with potential changes in federal law (designation of Highway 63 to be Interstate 555) regarding farm equipment traffic on a new section of interstate highway
- To correct technical errors made to bills when amendments were engrossed
- To honor Johnson County Deputy Sheriff Sonny Smith
- To confirm Gubernatorial appointments

LEGISLATIVE SESSION INFORMATION

To view schedules, calendars, bill information and legislator information, visit:

www.arkleg.state.ar.us.

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