



## Daily Legislative Update

90<sup>th</sup> General Assembly – FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

Friday, May 29, 2015

### SESSION CONCLUDED YESTERDAY

The House State Agencies Committee met at 1 p.m. yesterday afternoon and concurred in a Senate amendment to **HB 1006** and passed **SB 8**. These identical bills would move the Arkansas Primary Election from May to March in 2016.

The House then convened at 2:30 p.m. and adopted the following measures, which were on their Calendar:

**SB 4** – DWI law adjustment to meet federal guidelines passed 80-2

**SB 2** – Corrects engrossing errors passed 84-0

**SB 3** – Farm vehicles on I-555 passed 88-0

**SB 1** – Agency consolidations passed 85-0

**SB 6** – Authorization to issue Amendment 82 bonds to help

Lockheed Martin's bid to build military vehicles in Arkansas

Passed 90-0

The House then considered a supplemental calendar that included the identical bills **HB 1006** and **SB 8** as well as **SB 5** that would move the Fiscal Session from February to April.

**HB 1006** failed by a vote of 64-18 (2/3rds majority needed to pass)

**SB 8** passed by a vote of 67-16, including its emergency clause allowing it to go into effect upon signing by the Governor

**SB 5** passed by a vote of 73-11

The House adjourned at 3:05 p.m. and the Senate adjourned at 3:10 p.m., concluding the First Extraordinary Session of the 90<sup>th</sup> Arkansas General Assembly.

## **SESSION RECAP**

### **BOND ISSUE TO BUILD MILITARY VEHICLES APPROVED**

**HB 1003** by Rep. Matthew Shepherd (R-El Dorado) passed by votes of 96-0 and 30-2. **SB 6** by Sen. Bobby Pierce (D-Sheridan) passed by votes of 31-3 and 90-0. These were identical bills filed to authorize an Amendment 82 agreement allowing the state to issue \$87,145,000 in bonds to support the expansion of the Lockheed Martin facility in Camden. Lockheed Martin is seeking to gain a contract with the U.S. military to build the next generation of troop vehicles for the U.S. Army and Marines known as the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV).

If Lockheed Martin wins the contract to build the JLTV, it is estimated approximately 600 new full-time positions will be created and as many as 655 indirect jobs will be created in south Arkansas as a result of this project. These jobs are expected to pay an average wage of \$57,000. The direct jobs are estimated to create added payroll in the south Arkansas economy of nearly \$34.2 million annually, or \$855 million over the next 25 years.

A legislative study presented to the Legislature on Tuesday afternoon suggested the bond proposal would allow the state to easily recover its investment plus an additional \$16.3 million in added economic benefits. Lockheed Martin officials said the program is projected to bring an estimated \$3.4 billion to the state's economy should the nation's largest defense contractor win the high stakes bidding contest. In addition, Lockheed executives said the company plans to bolster the state's \$87.1 million bond financing with a total investment of more than \$125 million for infrastructure improvements in Camden, as well as to reach job-creation and wage milestones set by the state over the next 25 years.

The State Chamber/AIA supported this effort and thanks the legislators who voted for this important economic development project.

### **ARKANSAS PRIMARY ELECTION DATE CHANGE**

The only controversial issue of this Special Session was the attempt to move the Arkansas Primary Election date from May to March, which consequently would require the state's Fiscal Session to be moved from February to April. Three bills were filed to accomplish the election date change, which was desired to include Arkansas in a group of southern states holding Primary Election days on the same date that became known as the "SEC Primary."

Three bills were filed on this issue:

**HB 1002** by Rep. Nate Bell (R-Mena), chair of the House State Agencies Committee, would have moved the 2016 Arkansas Primary Election from May to March and provided a review process to consider whether this move should become permanent. This bill did not get out of the House State Agencies Committee.

**HB 1006** and **SB 8** were identical bills by Rep. Andy Davis (R-Little Rock) and Sen. Gary Stubblefield (R-Branch). These bills also sought to move the Arkansas Primary Elections from May to March but on a permanent basis. The House State Agencies Committee gave a Do Pass recommendation to **HB 1006** and it was approved by the entire House by a vote of 56-32 on Wednesday. **SB 8** failed to get out of the Senate State Agencies Committee on two occasions but was pulled from the Committee by a Senate floor vote of 22-10.

Wednesday afternoon and evening members of the Senate worked out a compromise agreement to add a sunset clause to both **HB 1006** and **SB 8** and then both bills were passed by the Senate Wednesday evening setting up today's House consideration. **SB 8** was adopted by the House and now goes to the Governor.

Once **SB 8** becomes law, the 2016 Primary Election date, for all elections, will be March 1, 2016. The date for any necessary runoff elections will be March 22, 2016. The candidate filing period will run from noon on Monday, November 2, 2015 until noon on Monday, November 9, 2015. These provisions will expire on December 31, 2016 allowing Primary Election and candidate filing dates to return to their historic dates after 2016.

## **CHANGES IN RESPONSE TO MOVING PRIMARY ELECTION DATE**

### **ARKANSAS FISCAL SESSION DATE CHANGE**

**HB 1008** and **SB 5** were identical bills filed by Rep. Charlotte Douglas (R-Alma) and Sen. Jon Woods (R-Springdale). These bills will move the state's 2016 Fiscal Session from the second Tuesday in February 2016, to the second Wednesday in April 2016 (4/13). Bill pre-filing for the 2016 Fiscal Session can begin on the second Monday of March 2016 (3/14). These provisions will expire on December 31, 2016 allowing the 2018 Fiscal Session to begin on the second Tuesday in February 2018.

### **CANDIDATE FILING AND REPORTING**

**HB 1007** by Rep. Andy Davis (R-Little Rock) revises various dates and deadlines regarding the filing of candidate contribution and expenditure reports to adjust the reporting to the new March primary election. It was approved in the House by a vote of 72-17 and in the Senate by a vote of 32-0.

## OTHER BILLS

### AGENCY CONSOLIDATIONS

**HB 1001** and **SB 1** by Rep. David Branscum (R-Marshall) and Sen. Jim Hendren (R-Gravette) were identical bills to consolidate some state agencies. Both bills were approved by the House and Senate.

- The Science and Technology Authority (ASTA) and the Department of Rural Services are transferred to the Arkansas Economic Development Commission
- The Arkansas Building Authority is transferred to the Department of Finance and Administration
- The Division of Land Surveys of the Arkansas Agricultural Department is transferred to Arkansas Geographic Information system Office.

### CORRECT BILL ENGROSSING ERRORS

**HB 1004** and **SB 2** by Rep. John Vines (D-Hot Springs) and Sen. Greg Standridge (R-Russellville) were identical bills to amend a couple of sections of the Arkansas Code to correct certain engrossing errors from the 2015 regular session. Both bills were adopted by the House and Senate.

### FARM VEHICLES ON I-555

**HB 1005** and **SB 3** by Rep. Brandt Smith (R-Jonesboro) and Sen. John Cooper (R-Jonesboro) were identical bills to allow farm vehicles and machinery that have been permitted to operate on the section of U.S. Highway 63 between exits for State Highway 149 and State Highway 14 to have continued access even though that section is now designated as part of I-555. Both bills were adopted by the House and Senate.

### DWI

**SB 4** by Sen. David Johnson (D-Little Rock) returns exceptions to “culpable mental state” in the Arkansas DWI laws that had been removed by a state Supreme Court decision. The court decision rendered Arkansas out of compliance with federal highway laws and would have resulted in the loss of millions of dollars in federal highway assistance. The bill essentially resets the law as it was prior to the Supreme Court decision. It passed the Senate 25-6 and the House 80-2.

## **MICROBREWERIES**

**HB 1009** and **SB 9** by Rep. Warwick Sabin (D-Little Rock) and Sen. Jeremy Hutchinson (R-Benton) sought to repeal Act 1237 regarding microbreweries and the production of hard cider and add provisions to Act 857. **SB 9** passed the Senate but was not considered in the House. HB 1009 was not considered. Both bills were deemed to be “not germane” to the call of the Special Session.

## **LEGISLATIVE PER DIEM FOR SPECIAL SESSION**

**SB 7** by Sen. Alan Clark (R-Lonsdale) was a proposal to provide for payment of expenses and per diem for the members of the House and Senate for the Special Session. It did not receive a motion in the Senate State Agencies Committee and was pulled from further consideration.

## **LEGISLATIVE SESSION INFORMATION**

To view schedules, calendars, bill information and legislator information, visit:  
[www.arkleg.state.ar.us](http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us).

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