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2027 REGULAR SESSION
IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

Pre-filing Bills and Resolutions: November 16, 2026 or the date the election results are certified (whichever is later)
Joint Rule 23. (A) provides that beginning on November 15th of each year preceding a regular session of the General Assembly, each holdover member of the Senate who will be serving at the next following regular session of the General Assembly, and each member-elect of the General Assembly, as soon as the election results of the members-elect of the next General Assembly *are certified* by the Secretary of State, shall be permitted to prefile bills and resolutions.

Pre-Session Budget Hearings: October 6, 2026 – November 6, 2026
The budget hearings of the Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC) begin October 6, 2026 and are scheduled to conclude November 6, 2026. The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) sits with the ALC as voting participants in the hearings, creating the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget Committee (ALC/JBC).

Executive Balanced Budget: Prior to November 12, 2026
Arkansas Code § 19-4-304(b) requires the Director of DFA to present the Official General Revenue Forecast and balanced budget no later than 60 days prior to the beginning of the regular session.

Feasibility Study for Certain Health Care Legislation introduced by a member of the General Assembly – December 11, 2026
House Rule 72.(a) and Senate Rule 7.18(h) provide that no action may be taken in the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor, on the floor of the House of Representatives, in the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor, or on the floor of the Senate on any bill that provides for licensure of any profession, occupation or class of health care providers not currently licensed or expands the scope of practice of any profession, occupation, or class of health care providers unless the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor or the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor has initiated a study of the feasibility of such legislation at least thirty (30) days prior to convening the next legislative session.

House Rule 72.(b) and Senate Rule 7.18(h) provide that a bill providing for the licensure of any profession, occupation, or class of health care providers not currently licensed or expanding the scope of any practice of any profession, occupation, or class of health care providers may be acted upon without the initiation of a feasibility study upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the House

Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee membership or upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee membership .

Convening regular session: <u>January 11, 2027</u>
Arkansas Code § 10-2-101(a) sets 12:00 noon on the second Monday in January of each odd-numbered year for the convening of the General Assembly in regular session. This rule is derived from Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 5, which permits the General Assembly to establish the date.

Deadline to file retirement legislation: <u>January 25, 2027</u> (*)

- Joint Rule 14(B)(2) and Arkansas Code § 10-2-115 require that legislation affecting any publicly supported retirement system or pension plan be introduced during the first fifteen days of the regular session. After the fifteenth day of the regular session, retirement legislation must be approved for introduction by a three-fourths vote of the full membership of each house.

Deadline to file certain health care legislation: <u>January 25, 2027</u>

- Joint Rule 15 requires that proposed legislation affecting the licensure of any profession, occupation, or class of health care providers not currently licensed or expanding the scope of practice of any profession, occupation, or class of health care providers to be considered by the General Assembly at a regular biennial session be introduced in the General Assembly during the first fifteen calendar days of a regular biennial session. After the fifteenth day of the regular session, any proposed legislation affecting the licensure of any profession, occupation, or class of health care providers not currently licensed or expanding the scope of practice of any profession, occupation, or class of health care providers must be approved for introduction by a three-fourths vote of the full membership of each house.

Deadline to file State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program legislation: January 25, 2027 (*)

- Joint Rule 14(E) require that proposed legislation affecting the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program or that imposes a new or increased cost obligation on the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program to be considered by the General Assembly at a regular session shall be introduced in the General Assembly during the first fifteen (15) calendar days of a regular session; and shall not be introduced after the fifteenth day of a regular session unless the introduction of the bill is first approved by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the full membership of each house of the General Assembly.

Deadline to file constitutional amendments: <u>February 10, 2027</u>

- Joint Rule 19(D) states: "No resolution proposing a constitutional amendment shall be filed in either the House of Representatives or the Senate after the thirty-first (31st) day of each regular session of the General Assembly."

Deadline to file lottery-funded scholarship legislation: <u>February 10, 2027</u> (*)

- Arkansas Code § 6-85-501 and Joint Rule 14(F) require that a bill creating a new scholarship to be funded with net proceeds from the state lottery or the Higher Education Grants Fund Account or affecting an existing scholarship funded from those same sources "not be introduced after the thirty-first day of a regular session unless its introduction is first approved by a three-fourths vote of the full membership of each chamber of the General Assembly."

Deadline to file appropriation bills: <u>March 1, 2027</u>
Joint Rule 14(A) states: "No appropriation bill shall be filed for introduction in either the House of Representatives or the Senate later than the fiftieth (50th) day of each regular session except upon consent of two-thirds of the members elected to each house; ..."

(*) This deadline may be extended if House and Senate recess for more than four (4) days.