

SUMMARY OF GENERAL LEGISLATION

.....

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

2025

Regular Session
January 13, 2025 – May 5, 2025



Bureau of Legislative Research
May 2025

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AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

Annual Report - Activities and Programs

ACT 213 (HB1450) repeals the requirement for annual reports by the State Plant Board, the farm to school and early childhood education program coordinator, the Department of Agriculture on the State Meat Inspection Program, and the various promotion boards. The act also amends the law related to the annual report by the department to include reporting on the department's activities and programs, including the boards and commissions administered by the department.

Certain Records - Freedom of Information Act Exemption

ACT 585 (HB1740) exempts certificates of veterinary inspection and personal information obtained from or associated with an animal electronic identification tag received by or in the custody of the Department of Agriculture from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act of 1967.

Fair Funding - Fair Districts

ACT 933 (SB400) provides requirements for recipients of financial assistance provided by the Department of Agriculture under the fair-funding program and establishes various fair districts comprised of specific counties. The act also defines "fair."

AGRONOMY

Fertilizer

ACT 530 (HB1774) transfers authority related to fertilizer from the State Plant Board to the Department of Agriculture and requires the department to invoice a responsible party based on the ton or fractional ton of fertilizer included in the tonnage report.

Fertilizer - Natural Organic Fertilizers - Repealed

ACT 290 (SB224) repeals the law concerning the regulation of natural organic fertilizers.

Liming Materials - Authority

ACT 526 (HB1741) transfers authority related to liming materials from the State Plant Board to the Department of Agriculture and requires the department to invoice a responsible party based on the total tonnage included in the quarterly tonnage report.

Seed Certification - Authority

ACT 527 (HB1742) transfers authority concerning seed certification from the State Plant Board to the Department of Agriculture and requires the department to invoice a responsible party for payment of costs related to the inspection, certification, promotion, and advertising of certified seed.

DISEASE AND PEST CONTROL

Contagious Diseases - Penalty

ACT 326 (HB1516) amends the penalty levied by the Department of Agriculture against a person who fails to comply with the department's rules related to the control of contagious diseases, transfers certain authorities from the Arkansas Forestry Commission to the department, and creates the Department of Agriculture Law Enforcement Fund.

Surveyors - Commercial Poultry Farms

ACT 99 (HB1278) requires surveyors to take certain actions before entering onto a commercial poultry farm to survey the poultry farm or a property adjacent to the commercial poultry farm.

FARMS AND FARMING

Holding, Leasing, or Owning Land Prohibited for Certain Foreign Parties

ACT 811 (HB1680) prohibits a foreign-party-controlled business from leasing, retaining, or holding an interest in land. The act also defines "critical infrastructure" as used in relation to foreign ownership of land and prohibits a prohibited foreign party from holding any interest in agricultural land located within ten (10) miles of critical infrastructure.

AGRICULTURE

FISH

Arkansas Catfish Processor Fair Practices Act of 1987 - Repealed

ACT 577 (SB407) repeals the law that authorized the Department of Agriculture to regulate catfish processors in the state by establishing fees for registration, suspending registration, enforcing the act through civil penalties, establishing purchase methods, and addressing the receivership process related to catfish.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission - Name Change

ACT 703 (SB550) changes the name of the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission to the Arkansas Board of Animal Health throughout the Arkansas Code and amends fund names to reflect the name change.

Commercial Feed - Authority - Sums

ACT 586 (HB1743) transfers authority concerning commercial feed from the State Plant Board to the Department of Agriculture and requires the department to invoice a responsible party to pay a sum for feed based on the tonnage report.

Equine Welfare - Civil Penalty

ACT 741 (SB563) authorizes the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission to impose a civil penalty for certain actions against an equine and allows a body condition score to be used to determine if adequate food and water have been supplied for an equine under the offense of cruelty to animals.

PLANT BOARD

Annual Reporting - Repealed

ACT 213 (HB1450) repeals the requirement for annual reports by the State Plant Board, the farm to school and early childhood education program coordinator, the Department of Agriculture on the State Meat Inspection Program, and the various promotion boards. The act also amends the law related to the annual report by the department to include reporting on the department's activities and programs, including the boards and commissions administered by the department.

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

BEER AND WINE

Arkansas Wine Producers Council - Transfer

ACT 462 (SB370) transfers the Arkansas Wine Producers Council from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Beer - Definition - Alcohol Content

ACT 596 (SB564) amends the definition of "beer" under the alcoholic beverages law to include malt beverages and to increase the allowable alcohol content.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

BEER AND WINE

Direct Shipment of Wine - Wine Direct Shipper License

ACT 675 (HB1476) establishes a wine direct shipper license that authorizes a wine direct shipper licensee to ship vinous liquor directly to a resident in a wet county. The act authorizes the shipment of up to twenty-four (24) nine-liter cases of wine annually from a wine direct shipper licensee to a recipient who is twenty-one (21) years of age or older, resides in a wet county, and receives the vinous liquor for personal use and not for resale.

GENERALLY

Manufacture, Consumption, and Taxation Reporting Requirement - Repealed

ACT 471 (SB389) repeals the law requiring the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration to submit a report concerning the manufacture and consumption of alcoholic beverages in the state and the taxes and permit fees collected on alcoholic beverages.

ON-PREMISES CONSUMPTION

Microbrewery-Restaurant Private Club - Advertising

ACT 601 (HB1645) excludes the use of social media, a website, or other electronic means to provide certain information to a consumer from the prohibition on advertising by a microbrewery-restaurant private club.

Private Clubs - Nonprofit Organization Requirement

ACT 762 (SB523) removes the requirement under the laws related to alcoholic beverages that a private club be a nonprofit organization.

Private Clubs - Nonprofit Requirement Removed for Certain Permits

ACT 421 (SB345) amends the law related to private clubs to allow a corporation, partnership, individual, or limited liability company to apply for a hotel, restaurant, or large-event facility permit without a requirement to form a nonprofit corporation.

Private Clubs - Purchases from Small Brewery Permit Holder

ACT 500 (HB1455) authorizes a private club located in an entertainment district to purchase alcoholic beverages brewed by a small brewery permit holder directly from the small brewery permit holder under an exclusive agreement.

PERMITS

Excursion Train Permit - Excursion Boat Permit

ACT 113 (HB1318) amends the law related to excursion train permits for alcoholic beverages to include an excursion boat permit.

Retail Liquor Permit - Additional Permits

ACT 156 (SB97) authorizes the issuance of up to two (2) additional retail liquor permits to a holder of a retail liquor permit. The act prohibits a person, firm, or corporation from holding more than one (1) liquor permit in the same county but allows an additional liquor permit in a county having a population of two hundred thousand (200,000) or more persons.

Small Brewery - Taprooms

ACT 488 (SB365) authorizes the holder of a small brewery license to operate up to three (3) small brewery taprooms.

Third-Party Delivery Permits

ACT 157 (SB98) authorizes the third-party delivery of alcoholic beverages from certain retailers, creates a third-party delivery permit, provides for the responsibilities of retailers and holders of third-party delivery permits, and provides for the creation of a delivery training program.

PROHIBITED PRACTICES

Raffles - Exception Under the Arkansas Sports Raffle Act

ACT 305 (HB1634) provides an exception for raffles under the Arkansas Sports Raffle Act related to prohibited practices on the premises of holders of certain alcoholic beverage permits. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after March 18, 2025.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

RETAILERS

Third-Party Delivery

ACT 157 (SB98) authorizes the third-party delivery of alcoholic beverages from certain retailers, creates a third-party delivery permit, provides for the responsibilities of retailers and holders of third-party delivery permits, and provides for the creation of a delivery training program.

TAXES

Excise Tax Credit for Beer and Sake Produced with Arkansas Rice

ACT 874 (HB1491) creates an excise tax credit for beer and sake that contain at least twenty percent (20%) Arkansas rice as percentage weight of their total grain bill. The act requires the credit to be calculated based on the percentage weight of Arkansas rice in the total grain bill.

WHOLESALERS

Permits - Issuance

ACT 830 (HB1730) amends the law related to the issuance and transfer of wholesale permits for alcoholic beverages to allow a new wholesaler permit to be issued on or after July 1, 2026, and a new minimum wholesaler permit to be issued on or after the effective date of the act.

ANIMALS

DOMESTIC

Emotional Support Animals - Private Property

ACT 819 (HB1893) authorizes a private property owner or business owner to ban an emotional support animal from the private property or the business premises and regulates liability on private property related to emotional support animals.

Injuries - Treble Damages

ACT 749 (SB342) amends the law related to injuries to domesticated animals by dogs to include other livestock in the definition of "domesticated animals" and authorizes the award of treble damages related to injuries to domesticated animals by dogs.

Law Enforcement - Temporary Seizure

ACT 688 (HB1824) authorizes a law enforcement officer to temporarily secure a dog or cat and transfer temporary possession of the dog or cat to an appropriate place of custody in certain circumstances.

Veterinary Medicine - Indirect Supervision for Emergency Calls

ACT 19 (SB68) authorizes a supervising veterinarian to use indirect supervision to allow veterinary technicians, veterinary technologists, and veterinary technician specialists to go to a location other than the location of the supervising veterinarian to provide services based on an emergency call.

Veterinary Telemedicine

ACT 18 (SB61) authorizes veterinary telemedicine and allows a veterinarian to provide veterinary telemedicine in an emergency or urgent situation without a previously established veterinarian-client-patient relationship if the veterinarian establishes the veterinarian-client-patient relationship within a set time period.

CHILDREN

ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Child Maltreatment Investigations Oversight Committee

ACT 404 (SB339) requires the legislative members of the Child Maltreatment Investigations Oversight Committee to biennially elect from their membership the Chair of the Child Maltreatment Investigations Oversight Committee.

Child Maltreatment Reporting

ACT 685 (HB1799) repeals the law that allows a report of child maltreatment or suspected child maltreatment by a mandated reporter to be made by facsimile transmission.

CHILDREN

ABUSE AND NEGLECT

No Statute of Limitations for Certain Claims for Injury Caused by Child Sexual Abuse

ACT 49 (SB13) temporarily allows a claim to be brought for an injury caused by child sexual abuse at any time if certain circumstances exist in relation to a claim for injury against an entity that has declared bankruptcy. The act applies retroactively to all claims based on violations of criminal sex offenses that occurred before the effective date of the act, and the act expires on December 31, 2026.

ADOPTION

Interlocutory Decree of Adoption

ACT 744 (SB599) prohibits the entry of an interlocutory decree of adoption.

Minor's Consent

ACT 713 (HB1838) requires a minor who is twelve (12) years of age or older to provide his or her consent to his or her adoption at the adoption hearing and allows the court to waive this requirement if the court finds it to be in the minor's best interest.

Residency Requirement

ACT 139 (HB1292) prohibits a decree of adoption of a child from being issued for a child that is not in the custody of the Department of Human Services until the child has lived in the home for at least six (6) months. The act provides an exception for a child who is the stepchild of the petitioner or who is fewer than six (6) months of age at the time the petition is filed.

CHILD WELFARE

Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities

ACT 636 (HB1653) transfers the licensing and regulation of psychiatric residential treatment facilities from the Child Welfare Agency Review Board to the Department of Human Services and sets standards for the licensing and regulation of psychiatric residential treatment facilities. The act also creates an exception to the moratorium regarding bed capacity and beds in a psychiatric residential treatment facility and amends the licensing of long-term care facility administrators to include psychiatric residential treatment facility administrators. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 16, 2025.

FOSTER CARE

Foster Home Training Requirements

ACT 824 (HB1921) prohibits the Division of Children and Family Services from requiring a foster home to obtain more than fifteen (15) hours of initial training to become an approved foster home or six (6) hours of annual training to maintain the foster home's status as an approved foster home. The act also prohibits the division from requiring a provisional foster home to undergo the same amount of hourly training as a nonprovisional foster home.

Sincerely Held Religious Beliefs

ACT 509 (HB1669) prohibits the establishment or enforcement of a standard, rule, or policy that excepts a current or prospective foster or preadoptive parent for placement of a child based on the current or prospective foster or preadoptive parent's sincerely held religious beliefs regarding sexual orientation or gender identity. The act also prohibits the state from taking an adverse action against a person to whom the state grants custody of a foster child or grants adoption of an adoptive child or who seeks custody of a foster child or the adoption of an adoptive child on the basis of the person guiding, instructing, or raising a child or intending to do so in a manner consistent with a sincerely held religious belief.

GUARDIANSHIP

Arkansas Brighter Future Fund Plan

ACT 315 (HB1527) allows a guardian of the estate to invest in an Arkansas Brighter Future Fund Plan on behalf of his or her ward.

CHILDREN

GUARDIANSHIP

Evidence - Due Process

ACT 713 (HB1838) requires that a probate case style and case number be generated when a guardianship is granted in a juvenile case and requires clear and convincing evidence that a parent is unfit to care for a child before a guardianship that is not an emergency or temporary guardianship is granted for a minor child that would remove custody from a parent. The act also requires a proposed adult ward to be notified of his or her due process rights and the hearing on the petition for guardianship and requires a child's living legal parent to be given first consideration when a deceased parent of a minor has nominated a person to be the minor's guardian upon that parent's death.

JUVENILE LAW

Arkansas Juvenile Code Reorganization

ACT 518 (SB320) reorganizes the Arkansas Juvenile Code of 1989 by repealing the existing language of the Arkansas Juvenile Code of 1989, placing it in a new chapter of Title 9, and dividing the chapter into subchapters.

Child Welfare Ombudsman and Juvenile Ombudsman

ACT 825 (HB1964) transfers the Child Welfare Ombudsman Division of the Arkansas Child Abuse/Rape/Domestic Violence Commission and the Juvenile Ombudsman Division of the Arkansas Public Defender Commission to the Department of Inspector General. The act also creates the Division of Ombudsman within the department and creates the Office of the Child Welfare Ombudsman and the Office of the Juvenile Ombudsman within the Division of Ombudsman. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Commitment of Delinquent Juvenile

ACT 755 (SB488) amends the definition of "juvenile" that applies to juvenile law concerning committing a juvenile to the Division of Youth Services to include a person who was under eighteen (18) years of age at the time a delinquent offense occurred but who has since reached the age of majority.

Concurrent State and Federal Jurisdiction

ACT 687 (HB1815) provides for concurrent jurisdiction between the federal government and the state in juvenile justice matters in which the federal government previously had exclusive jurisdiction, including without limitation on military bases.

Delinquency - Juvenile Victim of Human Trafficking

ACT 1003 (SB620) creates an affirmative defense to a nonviolent criminal offense for a person who is seventeen (17) years or younger if at the time of the offense the person was a victim of human trafficking and engaged in the conduct of the offense as a direct result of being a victim of human trafficking. The act requires a court to consider specific factors of a juvenile's history when making a decision regarding juvenile jurisdiction or when determining a sentence for a juvenile.

Discharge from Parole or Post-Release Supervision

ACT 1001 (SB457) requires the Post-Prison Transfer Board to notify the prosecuting attorney when considering the release of a person who is on parole or post-release supervision, was sentenced to a term exceeding five (5) years for an offense the person committed as a minor, and has served at least five (5) years on parole or post-release supervision without a violation. The act requires the person to be discharged from parole or post-release supervision if the prosecuting attorney does not object within sixty (60) days of notification.

Expungement of Delinquency Adjudication

ACT 754 (SB487) requires records of all delinquency adjudications other than for a felony involving violence to be expunged on an individual's twenty-first birthday.

CHILDREN

JUVENILE LAW

Factors Considered During Transfer or Sentencing Hearing

ACT 988 (SB458) requires a court to consider the impact of factors such as trauma and involvement with the child welfare system on a person who committed a crime as a minor during the person's transfer or sentencing hearing. The act requires a court to consider the differences between a juvenile offender and an adult offender, including without limitation the diminished culpability of a juvenile compared to the culpability of an adult offender.

Juvenile Sex Offenders

ACT 972 (SB490) allows a circuit court to waive the mandatory fee to be deposited into the DNA Detection Fund when a juvenile is ordered to register as sex offender.

MISSING CHILDREN

Child Abduction Response Teams

ACT 658 (HB1887) repeals the law that required the Criminal Justice Institute to coordinate the certification and recertification of each statewide child abduction response team.

Missing Endangered Child Advisory System

ACT 653 (SB371) establishes the missing endangered child advisory system to aid in the search for missing children who do not meet the criteria for activation of the Arkansas Amber Alert System. The act requires the Division of Arkansas State Police to establish procedures for the activation of the missing endangered child advisory system and to coordinate with local law enforcement to ensure the effective use of the missing endangered child advisory system.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Collection of Personal Information of Child or Teen

ACT 952 (HB1717) prohibits an operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application directed at children or teens from collecting personal information from a child or teen without providing clear and conspicuous notice of what information is being collected, the purpose for processing the child or teen's personal data, the disclosure practices for the information, the rights and opportunities available to the parent of the child or teen, the categories of personal data shared with third parties, and the categories of third parties with whom the controller shares the data. The act requires an operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application to provide an opportunity to request the deletion of a child's account or content or information submitted by the child and to challenge the accuracy of the personal information provided by a child. The act requires an operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application to obtain verifiable parental consent for the collection, use, or disclosure of personal information from a parent of a teen except in limited circumstances. The act allows the Attorney General to bring a civil action against an operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application that commits a violation of the act. The act is effective on and after July 1, 2026.

Compensation for Content Creation

ACT 982 (HB1975) allows a minor who is thirteen (13) years of age or older to produce, create, and publish his or her own content and entitles a minor to all compensation for his or her own content creation. The act requires a content creator whose content features a minor engaged in the work of content creation to maintain records that document certain data of the minor and his or her content creation until the minor reaches twenty-one (21) years of age. The act requires a content creator to set aside the gross earnings of a minor lawfully engaged in content creation in a trust account and to preserve the trust account for the benefit of the minor until he or she reaches eighteen (18) years of age. The act is effective on and after July 1, 2026.

CHILDREN

SOCIAL MEDIA

Prohibited Acts - Liability for Suicide or Suicide Attempt

ACT 901 (SB612) prohibits a social media platform from using a design, algorithm, or feature that the social media platform knows or should have known causes a user to purchase a controlled substance, develop an eating disorder, commit or attempt to commit suicide, or develop or sustain an addiction to the social media platform. The act creates a private right of action and imposes a civil penalty for the use of a design, algorithm, or feature by a social media platform that knowingly and willfully contributes to the suicide or the attempted suicide of a minor that results in significant bodily or cognitive harm.

Protections for Minors

ACT 900 (SB611) amends the Social Media Safety Act to change the definition of "minor" to an individual under sixteen (16) years of age who is in the state. The act prohibits a social media platform from engaging in practices that evoke any addiction or compulsory behaviors in a minor and requires a social media platform to ensure that, by default, notifications to a minor are ceased during certain hours. The act requires privacy and safety settings for a minor on a covered social media platform to be at the most protective level available and requires a social media platform to implement measures to prevent circumvention of age verification protocols. The act also creates the Crimes Against Children Fund to be used by the Attorney General to investigate and bring actions under the Social Media Safety Act. The provisions of the act that prohibit certain practices of a social media platform and that create requirements related to notifications and privacy and safety settings are effective on and after April 21, 2026.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

County Depository Boards

ACT 525 (HB1785) requires the county quorum court to adopt an ordinance selecting the third member of the board if the offices of county treasurer and county collector are combined.

County Planning Boards

ACT 519 (SB324) requires a majority of the voting members of a county planning board to reside in an unincorporated area of the county.

Equalization Board - Jurisdiction

ACT 486 (HB1760) provides that a county equalization board does not have jurisdiction over a county assessor's determination of whether a property qualifies for homestead property tax relief and requires a petition for certain claims for an adjustment of a property assessment to be filed with the county court of the county in which the property is located.

CIVIL SERVICE

Bill of Rights for Firefighters

ACT 686 (HB1808) creates minimum uniform standards that may be adopted by a municipality to apply to a firefighter under investigation for improper conduct.

Municipal Law Enforcement Compensation and Leave

ACT 317 (HB1600) amends the law concerning holiday compensation and annual vacation leave for municipal law enforcement to apply only to full-time law enforcement officers.

Municipalities - Civil Service System

ACT 751 (SB374) amends the examination schedule for applicants to a fire department or police department by requiring the chief of the fire department or police department to set the examination schedule. The act prohibits the Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training from interfering in the examination schedule or procedure set by the chief of a fire department or police department.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Annual Financial Report - Electronic Transfer

ACT 676 (HB1589) allows a county clerk, county comptroller, and county treasurer to cooperate on compiling and filing an annual financial report for the county. The act allows a county to disburse funds by electronic transfer to a creditor by order of a court without establishing an ordinance.

County Collector - Acceptance of Real Property Taxes

ACT 521 (HB1274) requires a county collector to respond within a certain time period to a request from a person facilitating the closing of a real estate transaction for a statement of all property taxes owed for the property subject to the closing and any delinquent personal property taxes owed by the owner of the property. The act requires the county collector to accept payment of property taxes due on the property subject to the closing without requiring the payment of any personal property taxes owed by the owner of the property if the county collector does not respond to the request for a statement of property taxes owed within the required time period.

County Court - Jurisdiction - Adjustment of Property Assessment

ACT 486 (HB1760) provides that a county equalization board does not have jurisdiction over a county assessor's determination of whether a property qualifies for homestead property tax relief and requires a petition for certain claims for an adjustment of a property assessment to be filed with the county court of the county in which the property is located.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Industrial Development Authorities

ACT 576 (SB361) allows a local government to establish an industrial development authority to establish, acquire, develop, improve, or maintain facilities for industrial development, provides for the creation and organization of industrial development authorities, and establishes the powers of industrial development authorities.

Public Utility - Exemption

ACT 712 (HB1814) revises the definition of "public utility" to clarify that municipal authority over a board- or commission-based public utility is governed by the rules established by a municipal board or commission and that a noncommissioned public utility is governed by the rules established for the noncommissioned utility.

Regulation of Fee Charged for Rental Application or Rental Deposit

ACT 459 (SB91) prohibits a local government unit from regulating or controlling the amount charged for a rental application fee or rental deposit for private residential or commercial property.

Talent Recruitment Grant Program

ACT 606 (HB1802) creates the Talent Recruitment Grant Program to award grants for municipal and nonprofit talent recruitment programs that incentivize individuals outside of the state to relocate to Arkansas.

ELECTED OFFICERS

Administration of Oaths

ACT 456 (HB1597) allows an elected or appointed municipal officer to take his or her oath before a justice of the Supreme Court or a judge of the Court of Appeals, a circuit court, or a district court. The act allows a former circuit, chancery, municipal, or district court judge that served as a judge for at least four (4) years to administer an oath to a municipal officer. The act also allows an elected or appointed municipal officer to take his or her oath before a federal justice or judge.

Arkansas County - Treasurer and Tax Collector - Combined

ACT 455 (HB1591) combines the offices of treasurer and tax collector in Arkansas County, Arkansas. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2027.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

ELECTED OFFICERS

Certain Elected Officials - Spouse's Entitlement to Retirement Benefits

ACT 413 (HB1276) allows a spouse of ten (10) years or more of a city attorney of a city of the first class or second class, deputy city clerk of a city of the first class, mayor of a city of the second class, or treasurer of a city of the first class to receive one-half (1/2) of the retirement benefit the city official was receiving or entitled to receive at the time of his or her death.

County Sheriffs - Fees for Attempted Service and Service of a Warrant or Order of Arrest

ACT 693 (HB1872) allows a county sheriff to collect a fee for the attempted service of certain court documents and requires a fee for serving a warrant or an order of arrest to be included in the court's judgment of conviction and sentencing order.

Montgomery County - Sheriff and Tax Collector - Separated

ACT 160 (HB1196) separates the offices of sheriff and tax collector in Montgomery County, Arkansas. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2027.

Perry County - Sheriff and Tax Collector - Separated

ACT 985 (HB1995) separates the offices of sheriff and tax collector in Perry County, Arkansas. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2027.

Poinsett County - Sheriff and Tax Collector - Separated

ACT 12 (HB1050) separates the offices of sheriff and tax collector in Poinsett County, Arkansas. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2027.

Recorders - Requirements for Recording a Deed to Real Estate

ACT 752 (SB406) prohibits a deed to real estate from being received for recording or filing if the grantor named in the deed or an individual signing the deed on behalf of the grantor named in the deed does not appear in person at the office of the recorder and present a valid photo identification card or driver's license. The act requires that a deed to real estate presented to a recorder for recording by mail include a photocopy of a valid photo identification or driver's license of the grantor named in the deed to the real estate. The act provides exceptions for a deed to real estate that is presented by certain professionals or public employees or officials.

Searcy County - Sheriff and Tax Collector - Separated

ACT 11 (HB1137) separates the offices of sheriff and tax collector in Searcy County, Arkansas. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2027.

Woodruff County - Treasurer and Tax Collector - Combined

ACT 454 (HB1590) combines the offices of treasurer and tax collector in Woodruff County, Arkansas. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2027.

ELECTIONS

Early Voting - Cities with a Population of More Than Fifteen Thousand

ACT 978 (HB1878) requires a county board of election commissioners to hold early voting in each city having a population of more than fifteen thousand (15,000) people if the county clerk is not conducting early voting in the city.

Early Voting - Inclement Weather

ACT 766 (SB578) allows a county board of election commissioners to call an emergency meeting to close one (1) or more early voting locations due to inclement weather.

Early Voting - Locations Designated by the County Board of Election Commissioners

ACT 282 (SB296) clarifies that a county board of election commissioners may designate additional early voting locations for each election and provides that the county clerk designates the early voting location within the county seat.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

ELECTIONS

Local Option - Canvasser Qualifications

ACT 115 (SB102) requires the sponsor of a local option petition to obtain a criminal history and criminal record for each canvasser to determine whether the canvasser has committed a disqualifying offense. The act prohibits a person from acting as a canvasser if the person is not a citizen of the United States and a resident of this state.

Local Option - Canvassing for Signatures

ACT 764 (SB551) requires a potential petitioner to read the ballot title or have the ballot title read aloud to him or her in the presence of a canvasser before the potential petitioner may sign the petition. The act requires a canvasser for a local initiative petition or referendum petition to disclose that petition fraud is a criminal offense to a potential petitioner. The act prohibits the county clerk from counting signatures collected by a canvasser if the county clerk finds that the canvasser has violated Arkansas laws regarding canvassing, perjury, forgery, or fraudulent practices in the solicitation of petition signatures. The act requires a canvasser for a local option petition to view a copy of a potential petitioner's photo identification before obtaining his or her signature and file a true affidavit certifying compliance with Arkansas laws regarding canvassing, perjury, forgery, and fraudulent practices in the solicitation of petition signatures.

Municipalities - Runoff Elections

ACT 991 (SB608) repeals the runoff election procedure for a municipal office and requires a runoff election for a municipal office to be held in the same manner as a runoff election for a county elected office.

School Elections - Unchanged Rate of Annual Ad Valorem Property Tax - Requirements

ACT 399 (SB135) provides that if, in an odd-numbered year, the rate of an annual ad valorem property tax levied by a public school district board of directors is unchanged from the previous rate of the annual ad valorem property tax, the county board of election commissioners of the county in which a public school district is situated may, upon request of the public school district board of directors, reduce the number of polling places, conduct the election only by absentee ballot and early voting, or hold an election as part of the election declared to be by candidate only or through the selection of a qualified elector designated by the public school district board of directors. The act prohibits the county board of election commissioners of the county in which a public school district is situated from opening any polling places on an election date if the unchanged rate of the annual ad valorem property tax is the only issue to be voted on in an odd-numbered year. The act also requires the unchanged rate of the annual ad valorem property tax to be placed on the ballot if the election is held in conjunction with the preferential primary or general election.

FINANCE

Ambulance Services

ACT 836 (HB1863) clarifies the payment process for ambulance services, requires contracting entities to pay claims for authorized ambulance services within thirty (30) days of receipt unless there is evidence of fraud or misrepresentation, and requires the Arkansas Ambulance Association to collect rates approved or contracted between ambulance providers and local government entities on or after July 1, 2025, and submit the information annually to the Insurance Commissioner. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 17, 2025.

Arkansas State Fair and Livestock Show

ACT 443 (SB327) extends payments to the Arkansas State Fair and Livestock Show Association for assistance to local governments through 2035.

CITIES AND COUNTIES**FINANCE*****Distribution of Funds to Newly Incorporated Municipalities***

ACT 620 (HB1522) allows for the distribution of funds in the Municipal Aid Fund, turnback funds, and county sales and use tax revenues to newly incorporated municipalities. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 14, 2025.

Ground Ambulance Services - Reimbursement Rates

ACT 867 (HB1850) clarifies the minimum allowable reimbursement rates for ground ambulance services under health benefit plans and specifies that the reimbursement rate for both in-network and out-of-network ground ambulance service providers is based on the rates approved or contracted between the ambulance service provider and the local government entity. The act also provides for the minimum allowable reimbursement if no rates are set. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 17, 2025.

In-Kind Donations

ACT 359 (SB254) amends the definition of "in-kind donations" for a rural community project to include labor, equipment, materials, services, and money.

Property Assessed Capital Expenditure Financing

ACT 579 (SB448) authorizes the financing of energy efficiency improvements, alternative energy improvements, building resiliency improvements, and water conservation improvements in the state.

Uniform Chart of Accounts

ACT 111 (HB1311) requires the Legislative Auditor to develop a comprehensive financial management system to be known as the "uniform chart of accounts" for appropriated funds of cities of the second class and incorporated towns and provides for the implementation of the uniform chart of accounts in the various cities and towns. The act requires the Legislative Auditor to develop and complete a process for phasing in the use of the uniform chart of accounts within thirty-six (36) months following the effective date of the act.

GENERALLY***Counseling for Public Employees Who Experience a Traumatic Event***

ACT 398 (HB1505) requires a public employer to provide coverage for licensed counseling for a public safety employee who experiences a traumatic event in the line of duty. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after March 25, 2025.

Court Fees - Salaries of District Court Judges

ACT 371 (HB1661) eliminates the obligation of cities and counties to pay for the salaries of state district court judges and allows cities and counties to retain fifty percent (50%) of uniform court costs and filing fees collected in the district court. The act reduces the amount of the installment fee collected by a district court for cases filed on or after January 1, 2026, and limits the total installment fees to be collected for a single fine. The act repeals statutes related to local district courts and requires the state to pay the salaries of state district court judges. The act also creates a new technology fee for criminal and traffic cases.

Criminal Illegals - Expanded Ban on Sanctuary Cities

ACT 654 (SB426) establishes enhanced penalties for illegal aliens who commit serious felonies involving violence, requires county sheriffs' offices and the Division of Correction to participate in the Warrant Service Officer Program, and expands the state's current ban on sanctuary cities to include counties and unincorporated areas.

Designation of Local Roads as Open for the Operation of a Utility Task Vehicle

ACT 922 (HB1606) allows a local government to authorize the operation of a utility task vehicle on certain designated public streets and highways within the local government's jurisdiction and establishes requirements for a utility task vehicle and the operator of a utility task vehicle that is being operated on a designated street or highway.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

GENERALLY

Display of the Ten Commandments

ACT 573 (SB433) requires local school superintendents, local government building administrators, chief administrators of public schools and institutions of higher education, and administrative officials of state agencies to display a durable poster or framed copy of a historical representation of the Ten Commandments and authorizes the institutions and agencies to pay for a copy or poster with public funds or by accepting a private donation.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives Prohibited

ACT 747 (SB520) prohibits an officer, agent, administrator, employee, or contractor of a county or municipality from treating an individual differently on the basis of race, ethnicity, sex, color, or national origin except to the extent otherwise required by federal law. The act allows a civil action to be brought against a county or municipality in violation of the act if the violation is not resolved within a certain time period.

Municipalities - Extraterritorial Jurisdiction

ACT 314 (HB1510) repeals the authority of a municipality to exercise territorial jurisdiction outside the boundaries of the municipality.

Public Records - Access

ACT 346 (HB1367) regulates access to public records by a title agent and a title company, clarifies the circuit clerk's custodial role for access to public records, and provides for the electronic transmittal of and access to public records.

Vertiports

ACT 883 (HB1976) prohibits a political subdivision from using its zoning and land use authority to grant or permit an exclusive right to one (1) or more vertiport owners or operators and requires that a political subdivision use its zoning and land use authority to promote reasonable access to advanced air mobility operators and public-use vertiports within the jurisdiction of the political subdivision.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT - GENERALLY

Certain Sister Cities Prohibited

ACT 937 (HB1352) prohibits the formation of certain sister cities and requires the termination of an existing sister city that has been formed between a municipality and a prohibited foreign party.

Municipal Attorneys - Contracts

ACT 523 (HB1618) allows a city of the second class or an incorporated town to contract with an attorney for representation.

Municipal Attorneys for Cities of the Second Class and Incorporated Towns

ACT 993 (HB1178) allows a city of the second class or an incorporated town that does not have an office of city attorney to contract with an attorney for legal representation.

Municipal Treasurers - Training

ACT 671 (SB553) requires a municipal treasurer to complete eight (8) hours of training provided by the Arkansas Municipal League in cooperation with Arkansas Legislative Audit. The act is effective on and after July 1, 2026.

Vacancies in Office

ACT 995 (HB1555) allows the governing body of a municipality to fill a vacancy by electing a person to serve the unexpired term or by calling a special election to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

Website Domain Extensions

ACT 929 (HB1951) requires a municipal government to use a ".gov" website domain extension unless certain circumstances exist. The act is effective on January 1, 2027, for cities and towns that have a population of fewer than ten thousand (10,000) inhabitants. The act is effective on and after June 1, 2026.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

ORDINANCES

Council Members at Large or by Ward

ACT 283 (SB297) requires a municipality that opts to elect city council members by ward to file an enacted ordinance describing the election procedure for city council with the county clerk.

Counties - Annual Appropriation Ordinance

ACT 24 (SB182) requires a county quorum court to operate under its annual appropriation ordinance for the previous year until a new appropriation ordinance is adopted. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after February 10, 2025.

County Property Inside City Limits - Building and Zoning Regulations

ACT 1002 (SB571) prohibits a municipality from enforcing municipal building and zoning regulations on county property located within the corporate limits of the municipality that is used for a public purpose and requires the property to comply with county building and zoning regulations.

Lawn Care Devices

ACT 146 (HB1075) prohibits a local government from regulating the sale or use of a lawn care device based on the energy source of the device or imposing a tax or fee on the use of a lawn care device based on the energy source of the device.

Municipalities - Accessory Dwelling Units

ACT 313 (HB1503) prohibits a municipality from adopting an ordinance that prohibits or restricts the use of accessory dwelling units in certain instances. The act invalidates any policy, regulation, or ordinance adopted by a municipality that conflicts with the act.

Reduction of a City of the First Class

ACT 834 (HB1783) increases the maximum population size that a city of the first class must have to adopt an ordinance to reduce to a city of the second class to seven thousand five hundred (7,500) inhabitants.

Regulation of Knives or Knife-Making Components

ACT 161 (HB1418) prohibits a local government from passing an ordinance or regulation pertaining to knives or knife-making components or from regulating the ownership, transfer, transportation, carrying, or possession of knives or knife-making components.

Vegetable Garden - Prohibition on Ordinance or Regulation

ACT 529 (HB1772) authorizes a person to cultivate a vegetable garden on his or her own private property or on the private property of another person with permission of the owner and prohibits a county, municipality, or other political subdivision from adopting an ordinance or regulation prohibiting vegetable gardens on residential property.

PROCEDURES

Construction Plan Reviews and Inspections

ACT 591 (SB322) allows construction plan reviews and inspections to be conducted by a private professional provider at the request of a permit applicant and requires a local government to coordinate with a private professional provider and provide prompt responses regarding the sufficiency of a plan review or inspection conducted by the private professional provider.

Counties - Passport Fees Collected

ACT 844 (HB1901) requires a county office that is a passport acceptance facility recognized by the United States Department of State to collect the passport application and fees associated with processing the application.

Issuance of Identification Cards

ACT 605 (HB1789) prohibits a local government from issuing an identification card to an individual who cannot provide proof of lawful presence in the United States or providing funding to a person, entity, or organization for that purpose.

CITIES AND COUNTIES

PROCEDURES

Municipalities - Zone or District Designation

ACT 595 (SB505) allows a municipality to create an administrative procedure by ordinance that allows the planning commission to change the zone or district designation of a property without a public hearing if the request is made by the property owner and the request is consistent with the land use plan.

PROPERTY

County Property Inside City Limits - Services

ACT 742 (SB574) requires a municipality to provide a waterworks system, a sewage collection system, and sewage treatment services to county property that is located within the boundaries of the municipality. The act requires the county to pay for costs associated with connection of the service and to pay the same rates charged to other customers of the system.

Municipalities - Abandoned Property

ACT 520 (HB1272) requires the plats of real estate abutting a street or alley that is abandoned by a municipality to be amended to add the abandoned street or alley to the abutting real estate. The act is retroactive and applies to all streets and alleys abandoned by a municipality with abutting real estate after February 6, 1945.

PURCHASING

After-Market Equipment

ACT 107 (HB1145) increases the exemption amount for soliciting bids on after-market equipment to two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for counties and municipalities.

Prohibition on Purchasing Certain Electric Vehicles and Components

ACT 924 (HB1683) prohibits a governmental entity from procuring an electric vehicle or a component of an electric vehicle unless the manufacturer certifies that no entity involved in the production of the electric vehicle or the component of an electric vehicle uses forced labor. The act also provides for remedies against a manufacturer that knowingly provides false or misleading information and a governmental entity or an employee of a governmental entity that knowingly violates the prohibition.

RETIREMENT

Health Insurance - Firefighter Retirees

ACT 415 (HB1313) expands health benefit coverage for eligible firefighter retirees of municipalities and counties who are eligible to retire with full retirement benefits but are not eligible for Medicare enrollment until the eligible firefighter retiree is a Medicare-eligible person.

Payment of Benefits

ACT 588 (SB153) requires retirement benefits for various city officials to be paid by the city that employs the city official.

WATER AND WASTEWATER

Eligibility for State Water Development Programs

ACT 736 (SB420) expands eligibility for state water development programs by expanding the definition of a "qualified corporation" and by amending the uses of the Construction Assistance Revolving Loan Fund to include public or private owners of an environmental project.

Sewer Collection and Treatment - Fiscal Responsibility

ACT 925 (HB1701) creates an oversight framework within the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission for providers of sewage collection or sewage treatment services and sets out criteria to determine providers in fiscal distress and requirements for those providers. The act creates commission training requirements for members of provider boards and creates an advisory training board.

CIVIL LAW AND PROCEDURE

ACTIONS AGAINST THE STATE

Religious Nondiscrimination

ACT 677 (HB1615) prohibits government discrimination against an individual or organization for action taken or declined to be taken based on the individual's or organization's beliefs about biological sex or marriage. The act requires the state to license or certify a person who would otherwise be licensed or certified under state law but for a determination against the person based on the person's sincerely held religious belief and prohibits the state from revoking or declining to renew or grant a degree, license, or certification to a person based upon the person's inability to provide professional services to a client that conflict with the person's sincerely held religious belief. The act also prohibits a public educational institution from requiring a license-seeking student to provide services to a client that conflict with the student's sincerely held religious belief.

CAUSES OF ACTION

Claims Against Certain Contractors and Suppliers

ACT 558 (HB1468) establishes a process to be followed before commencing an action against a home improvement contractor, residential building contractor, or supplier regarding a construction defect found within one (1) year after completion of a dwelling.

Dirtbike Use on Private Property

ACT 312 (HB1465) provides that a participant assumes the inherent risk of dirtbike use by engaging in dirtbike use on private property and that an owner of private property is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant resulting from the inherent risk of dirtbike use on the owner's property.

Medical Malpractice - Gender-Affirming Intervention to a Minor

ACT 979 (HB1916) includes gender-affirming intervention as a basis for a cause of action for medical malpractice and clarifies that a mental health professional who performs gender-affirming intervention on a minor is liable to the minor if the minor is injured.

Right of Publicity

ACT 159 (HB1071) allows an individual whose photograph, voice, or likeness is reproduced using artificial intelligence and used for unauthorized commercial purposes to bring a lawsuit for damages and to recover lost profits, funds, goods, or services from the unauthorized commercial use.

Sex Designation of Restrooms, Changing Rooms, and Sleeping Quarters

ACT 955 (SB486) requires domestic violence shelters, state and local correctional facilities, and public buildings to designate multi-occupancy restrooms, changing rooms, and sleeping quarters based on an individual's sex; prohibits a person from entering a restroom or changing room that is not designated for his or her sex; and prohibits a shelter, correctional facility, or public building from requiring a person to share sleeping quarters with a member of the opposite sex. The act creates exceptions for persons entering a restroom, changing room, or sleeping quarters for certain purposes and allows a shelter, correctional facility, or governmental entity to adopt policies to accommodate individuals with disabilities, certain children, and elderly persons requiring aid. The act creates a private cause of action by a person against a shelter, correctional facility, or governmental entity that violates the act if certain circumstances exist.

Unlawful Creation of Deepfake Visual Material

ACT 827 (HB1529) allows a person injured by the unlawful creation of deepfake visual material to bring a civil action against the provider or developer of the image generation technology that was used to create the deepfake visual material or the person or entity that created the deepfake visual material and allows the Attorney General to bring a civil action against a provider or developer of image generation technology that was used in the unlawful creation or distribution of deepfake visual material in certain circumstances.

CIVIL LAW AND PROCEDURE

CAUSES OF ACTION

Unmanned Aircraft System - Damages

ACT 597 (HB1148) creates a civil action for damages caused by a violation of the criminal offenses related to unmanned aircraft systems and establishes a list of conduct that constitutes the lawful capture of an image using an unmanned aircraft system.

Victims of Human Trafficking

ACT 664 (SB428) extends the statute of limitations for a civil cause of action for victims of human trafficking to ten (10) years from the date the plaintiff discovered that the human trafficking incident occurred and that the defendant caused, was responsible for, or benefitted from the human trafficking incident.

EVIDENCE AND WITNESSES

Scrivener's Affidavit

ACT 418 (HB1479) allows a licensed engineer, surveyor, or notary public to execute and record a scrivener's affidavit in certain circumstances.

IMMUNITY

Administration of Immunization and Monoclonal Antibodies

ACT 634 (HB1619) provides civil immunity for the administration of immunizations and monoclonal antibodies for respiratory syncytial virus disease and sets the amount the Arkansas Medicaid Program will reimburse as an administrative fee for immunizations and monoclonal antibodies for respiratory syncytial virus disease.

Confiscation of Tobacco Products and Vapor Products from a Minor at School

ACT 669 (SB449) provides civil immunity for a law enforcement officer, a school employee, or a person in a position of trust or authority over a minor if he or she confiscates nicotine, tobacco products, vapor products, alternative nicotine products, e-liquid products, cigarette papers, or a product that he or she reasonably believes to be a vapor product from a minor at a school.

Firearm Hold Agreement

ACT 106 (HB1067) establishes immunity from civil liability for a federal firearms licensee for an act or omission arising from a firearm hold agreement that results in personal injury or the death of a person unless the act was the result of otherwise unlawful conduct on the part of the federal firearm licensee.

Shooting Sports Event

ACT 248 (HB1007) regulates liability of the host of a shooting sports event for an injury to or the death of a participant in certain circumstances and requires the posting of a warning notice with specific contents related to the shooting sports event and liability.

JUDGMENTS

Execution - Exemption for Homestead Owned by a Limited Liability Company

ACT 679 (HB1729) allows a homestead owned by a limited liability company to be eligible for the homestead exemption from the execution of a judgment in certain circumstances.

Limitation on Recovery of Damages for Medical Care, Treatment, or Services

ACT 28 (HB1204) limits the recovery of damages for past necessary medical care, past necessary medical treatment, or past necessary medical services received to only those costs actually paid by or on behalf of the plaintiff or that remain unpaid and for which the plaintiff or a third party is responsible.

Property Subject to Execution - Exemption for Qualified Savings Plan

ACT 681 (HB1752) exempts a stock, bonus, pension, annuity, deferred compensation, profit-sharing, health, education, or similar plan or account that is exempt from federal income tax or for which the federal income tax on the interest in the plan or account is deferred until actual payment of the benefits to the person from attachment, execution, and seizure to satisfy debts.

CIVIL LAW AND PROCEDURE

JUDGMENTS

Writ of Scire Facias

ACT 986 (HB1959) eliminates a writ of scire facias as the means of reviving an outstanding judgment and allows a judgment creditor to file notice of an outstanding judgment to revive the judgment. The act establishes the filing fee to be charged by a circuit court clerk to file notice of an outstanding judgment and prohibits the circuit clerk from charging a reopening fee for the revival of a judgment by notice.

JURISDICTION

Contracts - Dwelling Unit

ACT 771 (SB600) provides that Arkansas law governs a transaction in which an Arkansas resident in this state enters into a contract to purchase or finance the purchase of certain real or personal property used as a dwelling unit in this state. The act also provides that any litigation pertaining to this type of contract is subject to the jurisdiction of this state.

Facial Constitutional Challenges

ACT 975 (HB1832) gives the Court of Appeals exclusive original jurisdiction over a facial constitutional challenge in which a party seeks to have a provision of an act of the General Assembly, a provision of the Arkansas Code, or a provision of an administrative rule or regulation declared unconstitutional in all of its applications under the United States Constitution or the Arkansas Constitution. The act is effective on and after November 1, 2025.

LIMITATIONS

Alleged Medical Injury During Childbirth

ACT 124 (HB1427) amends the statute of limitations for medical malpractice to state that if an alleged medical injury occurs during childbirth, the minor or his or her representative has until the minor's fifth birthday to commence a medical malpractice action. The act is identical to Act 140 of 2025.

ACT 140 (SB213) amends the statute of limitations for medical malpractice to state that if an alleged medical injury occurs during childbirth, the minor or his or her representative has until the minor's fifth birthday to commence a medical malpractice action. The act is identical to Act 124 of 2025.

Certain Claims for Injury Caused by Child Sexual Abuse - No Statute of Limitations

ACT 49 (SB13) temporarily allows a claim to be brought for an injury caused by child sexual abuse at any time if certain circumstances exist in relation to a claim for injury against an entity that has declared bankruptcy. The act applies retroactively to all claims based on violations of criminal sex offenses that occurred before the effective date of the act, and the act expires on December 31, 2026.

REMEDIES

Penalties for Businesses Involved in Prostitution

ACT 663 (SB427) creates civil penalties for a business involved in a prostitution violation, requires a business involved in a prostitution violation to be subject to the suspension of any business license granted to the business by the state and a monetary civil penalty, and increases the length of the suspension of a business license and the amount of the monetary civil penalty with subsequent violations.

Priority of Liens

ACT 479 (HB1271) provides that if construction of an improvement commences before the recordation of a mortgage or other security instrument that provides a security interest for the purpose of funding construction or repair of the improvement, only liens for providing labor, materials, or supplies before the recordation of the mortgage or other security instrument that provides a security interest have priority over the mortgage or other security instrument that provides a security interest.

CIVIL LAW AND PROCEDURE

REMEDIES

Setting Aside Decree to Quiet Title to Land - Repealed

ACT 320 (SB298) repeals the law concerning the setting aside of a decree to quiet title to land.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS - PRACTICE, PROCEDURE, AND COURTS

Title 16

ACT 173 (HB1357) makes technical corrections recommended by the Arkansas Code Revision Commission to Title 16 of the Arkansas Code.

COMMERCIAL LAW

BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS

Principal Office

ACT 650 (SB552) clarifies the definition of "principal office" used in relation to business corporations and limited liability companies to allow for the designation of a registered agent of a domestic or foreign corporation or a limited liability company or foreign limited liability company as the principal office if the Secretary of State is provided the physical address of a named officer or director.

Uniform Limited Liability Company - Charging Orders

ACT 461 (SB319) clarifies charging orders that are applicable to single-member limited liability companies and multiple-member limited liability companies.

Water Authority Board of Directors - Contact Information

ACT 239 (HB1387) requires the board of directors of a public water authority organized under the Water Authority Act to publish each board member's name and telephone number on the public websites of the public water authority and the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission and to update the contact information within ten (10) days of any changes.

BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS

Collection of Child's or Teen's Personal Information

ACT 952 (HB1717) prohibits an operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application directed at children or teens from collecting personal information from a child or teen without providing clear and conspicuous notice of what information is being collected, the purpose for processing the child or teen's personal data, the disclosure practices for the information, the rights and opportunities available to the parent of the child or teen, the categories of personal data shared with third parties, and the categories of third parties with whom the controller shares the data. The act requires an operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application to provide an opportunity to request the deletion of a child's account or content or information submitted by the child and to challenge the accuracy of the personal information provided by a child. The act requires an operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application to obtain verifiable parental consent for the collection, use, or disclosure of personal information from a parent of a teen except in limited circumstances. The act allows the Attorney General to bring a civil action against an operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application that commits a violation of the act. The act is effective on and after July 1, 2026.

Discrimination

ACT 452 (HB1509) prohibits financial institutions from using discriminatory practices involving a firearm merchant code, creates enforcement provisions for prohibited conduct, and provides alternatives for state community banks.

Earned Wages

ACT 347 (HB1517) allows for earned wage access as a financial services product that allows workers to access the wages that an employee has earned before the regularly scheduled payday, establishes the requirements for providers of earned wage access services, and sets the prohibited practices for providers of earned wage access services.

COMMERCIAL LAW

BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS

Exempt Transactions - Securities

ACT 236 (SB220) expands exemptions for securities offerings for Arkansas-based start-up companies by lowering the barriers to invest and increasing the maximum investments allowed for sales in exempt transactions of Arkansas-based start-up companies under the Arkansas Securities Act. The act allows two (2) or more individual purchasers residing at the same primary residence who are not accredited investors and have a close family relationship to be treated as a single purchaser for purposes of the monetary limit imposed on an issuer.

Online Marketplace

ACT 555 (SB405) conforms provisions of the Online Marketplace Consumer Inform Act to the provisions of federal law for uniformity, including revising the definition of "verify" and reducing the time frame allowed for verification of a high-volume third-party seller by an online marketplace to ten (10) days.

Precious Metals-Backed Electronic System

ACT 810 (HB1918) authorizes the use of a bullion depository and the use of a precious metals-backed electronic system to allow bullion to be spent as currency. The act requires the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State to implement rules governing these systems, including vendor payment options and fraud prevention measures, provides that the exchange of legal tender does not incur tax liabilities, and provides that specie is not classified as personal property for taxation purposes.

Right of Publicity

ACT 159 (HB1071) allows an individual whose photograph, voice, or likeness is reproduced using artificial intelligence and used for unauthorized commercial purposes to bring a lawsuit for damages and to recover lost profits, funds, goods, or services from the unauthorized commercial use.

Unsolicited Commercial Text Messages

ACT 847 (HB1957) prohibits unsolicited commercial and sexually explicit text messages and sets out the requirements a commercial text message must satisfy to not violate this prohibition.

Virtual Currency Kiosks

ACT 557 (HB1467) defines terms related to money services, provides regulations for money transmission kiosks and virtual currency kiosks, modifies surety bond requirements, requires training materials for authorized delegates, and establishes data security requirements for money services.

CONTRACTS

Automatic Renewal - Continuous Service Offers

ACT 652 (HB1820) regulates automatic renewal and continuous service offers and provides a process for a subscriber to cancel automatic renewal and continuous service offers in the same way the subscriber enrolled.

Covenant Not to Compete - Physician

ACT 232 (SB139) clarifies that a covenant not to compete agreement that restricts the right of a physician to practice within the physician's scope of practice is void.

Dwelling Unit - Jurisdiction

ACT 771 (SB600) provides that Arkansas law governs a transaction in which an Arkansas resident in this state enters into a contract to purchase or finance the purchase of certain real or personal property used as a dwelling unit in this state. The act also provides that any litigation pertaining to this type of contract is subject to the jurisdiction of this state.

COMMERCIAL LAW**CONTRACTS*****Healthcare Contracts***

ACT 569 (HB1426) revises the definition of "healthcare insurer" for purposes of healthcare contracting to include an entity that administers health insurance in this state and a third-party administrator or other entity acting on behalf of a self-insured health benefit plan. The act prohibits a contracting entity from enforcing a stipulation, requirement, or policy that has the effect of an all-products clause whether or not an all-products clause is included in the healthcare contract and prohibits a waiver of any provision of the Healthcare Contracting Simplification Act. The act clarifies the prohibition on leasing a healthcare contract or provider network if access to the network is provided.

Pharmacy Benefits Manager National Contract to Pharmacies

ACT 775 (SB544) adds definitions related to pharmacy benefits managers, requires a pharmacy benefits manager to provide certain information during contract negotiations to allow for informed healthcare contracting decisions, provides for sixty days' notice for opt-out contracts, and revises the penalties available under the Arkansas Pharmacy Benefits Manager Licensure Act for an underpayment violation.

Publicity Rights - Student-Athletes

ACT 839 (HB1917) authorizes an institution of higher education to compensate a student-athlete for the commercial use of his or her publicity rights and to enter into an exclusive or nonexclusive license agreement with a student-athlete for the commercial use of his or her publicity rights. The act authorizes an institution of higher education to revoke or rescind an agreement or commitment to provide compensation or benefits in certain instances and provides that the institution of higher education is not liable for damages as a consequence of the revocation or rescission of an agreement. The act exempts income received by a student-athlete from an institution of higher education as compensation for the use of his or her name, image, or likeness or as a percentage of institutional athletic revenue from state income tax and provides that personal or financial information of a student-athlete contained in an agreement under the act is confidential and not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act of 1967. The act requires written authorization from the student-athlete's committed or enrolled institution of higher education for certain actions related to conflicts and amends the law related to representation, the employment status of student-athletes, the scope of the Arkansas Student-Athlete Publicity Rights Act, liability and civil remedies, and limits on funding.

DEBTORS AND CREDITORS***Adverse Action***

ACT 343 (SB240) removes a consumer's Social Security number from the content required for a notice of adverse action under the Credit Reporting Disclosure Act of 1989.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS***Firearm Merchant Code - Prohibition Against Discrimination***

ACT 452 (HB1509) prohibits financial institutions from using discriminatory practices involving a firearm merchant code, creates enforcement provisions for prohibited conduct, and provides alternatives for state community banks.

Stock - Acquiring Bank

ACT 344 (SB242) allows a state bank to lend against its own equity if the state bank acquires another bank that has loans secured by the stock of the acquiring state bank.

Threat of Harm upon a Financial Institution Employee - Criminal Offense

ACT 770 (SB597) creates the criminal offense of threat of harm upon a financial institution employee as a Class B misdemeanor.

Trust Institutions

ACT 237 (SB230) reorganizes and modernizes the language related to trust institutions.

COMMERCIAL LAW

MORTGAGES AND LIENS

Covered Institution Servicers

ACT 262 (HB1466) adds definitions to the Fair Mortgage Lending Act, regulates covered institution servicers, establishes corporate governance for covered institution servicers, clarifies surety bond and audited financial statement requirements, and establishes standards for safeguarding customer information.

Mortgage Trigger Lead - Prohibitions

ACT 263 (HB1184) prohibits the use of a mortgage trigger lead in a misleading or deceptive manner under the Fair Mortgage Lending Act.

Priority

ACT 479 (HB1271) provides that if construction of an improvement commences before the recordation of a mortgage or other security instrument that provides a security interest for the purpose of funding construction or repair of the improvement, only liens for providing labor, materials, or supplies before the recordation of the mortgage or other security instrument that provides a security interest have priority over the mortgage or other security instrument that provides a security interest.

Priority of Purchase Money Mortgage

ACT 29 (HB1273) provides that a lien created by the entry of a certificate of indebtedness issued by the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration is not superior to a purchase money mortgage.

SECURITIES

Exempt Transactions

ACT 236 (SB220) expands exemptions for securities offerings for Arkansas-based start-up companies by lowering the barriers to invest and increasing the maximum investments allowed for sales in exempt transactions of Arkansas-based start-up companies under the Arkansas Securities Act. The act allows two (2) or more individual purchasers residing at the same primary residence who are not accredited investors and have a close family relationship to be treated as a single purchaser for purposes of the monetary limit imposed on an issuer.

Reporting Requirements

ACT 957 (SB483) repeals reporting requirements for the State Insurance Department concerning health insurance fraud, the assessment and user fee under the Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace, the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Insurance Plan, and servicing carriers. The act also repeals the requirement for quarterly reports for the State Securities Department and revises reporting requirements for the State Insurance Department regarding craniofacial coverage to provide that the report is submitted upon the request of a cochair of the House Committee on Insurance and Commerce or a cochair of the Senate Committee on Insurance and Commerce.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS - BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL LAW

Title 4

ACT 164 (SB171) makes technical corrections recommended by the Arkansas Code Revision Commission to Title 4 of the Arkansas Code.

UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE

Article 9

ACT 603 (HB1736) clarifies that the ineffectiveness of certain assignments under Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code does not apply to an ownership interest in a general partnership, limited partnership, or limited liability company.

Central Bank Digital Currency

ACT 50 (SB133) amends the Uniform Commercial Code to define "central bank digital currency," modify the definition of "money" to exclude "central bank digital currency," and modify the definition of "deposit account" to exclude "central bank digital currency."

COMMERCIAL LAW

UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE

Charging Orders

ACT 461 (SB319) clarifies charging orders that are applicable to single-member limited liability companies and multiple-member limited liability companies.

Commercial Transactions - Updates

ACT 997 (HB1746) amends the Uniform Commercial Code to include recent updates by the Uniform Law Commission related to commercial transactions, addresses emerging technologies, and provides updated rules for commercial transactions involving virtual currencies, distributed ledger technologies, artificial intelligence, and other technological developments. The act adds a new article to address certain types of digital assets defined as "controllable electronic records," provides new default rules to govern transactions involving these new technologies, and clarifies the Uniform Commercial Code's applicability to mixed transactions involving both goods and services. The act is effective on and after September 1, 2026.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Civil Penalty Funds

ACT 690 (HB1831) requires the Attorney General to create and maintain accounts necessary to receive funds from civil penalties collected by the Attorney General for which the law does not specify a use and settlement funds from a lawsuit in which the state is a party receiving the funds.

Contingency Fee Contracts

ACT 689 (HB1830) repeals the prohibition of a contingency fee contract procured by the Attorney General based on the award of or amounts attributable to penalties or civil fines.

Disposition Reports

ACT 20 (SB18) clarifies the matters subject to the filing of disposition reports by the Attorney General with the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee when the matters have not previously been reported as resolved.

COMMISSIONER OF STATE LANDS

Donation Deeds and Homestead Donation Deeds

ACT 216 (HB1399) repeals the law concerning the issuance of donation deeds and homestead donation deeds by the Commissioner of State Lands and repeals the law concerning the donation of tax-forfeited land.

GENERALLY

Administration of Oaths

ACT 456 (HB1597) allows the Governor to take his or her oath before a federal justice of the United States Supreme Court or a federal judge of the United States Court of Appeals or a United States District Court. The act allows a justice of the Supreme Court, a circuit court judge, a judge of the district court, the Secretary of State, the Treasurer of State, the Auditor of State, and all other officers, both civil and military, to take their oaths before a former circuit, chancery, municipal, or district court judge who served for at least four (4) years, a federal justice of the United States Supreme Court, or a federal judge of the United States Court of Appeals or a United States District Court.

GOVERNOR

Reporting, Sunsetting, and Extension of Administrative Rules

ACT 21 (SB56) amends the law concerning the reporting, sunseting, and extension of administrative rules to allow the Governor to amend the rule review groups subject to reporting. The act also prohibits the amendment of rule review groups that results in the rules of an agency being evaluated more than twelve (12) years from the agency's last evaluation.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

SECRETARY OF STATE

Effective Date of Appropriation

ACT 552 (HB1927) revises the effective date of Acts 2025, No. 408, concerning the appropriation for the Secretary of State. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 10, 2025.

TREASURER OF STATE

Arkansas Brighter Future Fund Plan Accounts - Contributions by Nonprofits

ACT 615 (SB422) authorizes nonprofit organizations to contribute to a new or existing Arkansas Brighter Future Fund Plan account and requires the Treasurer of State to facilitate contributions by a nonprofit organization.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES

Automatic Renewals and Continuous Service Offers

ACT 652 (HB1820) regulates automatic renewal and continuous service offers and provides a process for a subscriber to cancel automatic renewal and continuous service offers in the same way the subscriber enrolled.

Business Practices - Pharmacy Benefits Manager - Healthcare Payor

ACT 514 (SB104) regulates the business practices of healthcare payors and pharmacy benefits managers to prohibit the use of carve-out networks or ghost networks and clarifies unfair and deceptive trade practices by a pharmacy benefits manager. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 10, 2025.

Data Security - Money Services

ACT 557 (HB1467) defines terms related to money services, provides regulations for money transmission kiosks and virtual currency kiosks, modifies surety bond requirements, requires training materials for authorized delegates, and establishes data security requirements for money services.

Mortgage Trigger Lead

ACT 263 (HB1184) prohibits the use of a mortgage trigger lead in a misleading or deceptive manner under the Fair Mortgage Lending Act.

INSURANCE

Notice of Deductible Amounts

ACT 246 (SB48) requires an insurer to disclose all deductibles included under a policy for owner-occupied residential property insurance policies in a clear and conspicuous manner on the policy declaration page or notice of renewal of the policy, including whether the insurance policy contains separate deductible levels by peril.

Regulation - Online Marketplace Guarantees

ACT 426 (SB329) establishes a legal framework within which an online marketplace or its affiliate may offer or sell an online marketplace guarantee and places the risk on the online marketplace provider rather than the consumer.

LENDERS AND LENDING

Adverse Action

ACT 343 (SB240) removes a consumer's Social Security number from the content required for a notice of adverse action under the Credit Reporting Disclosure Act of 1989.

Customer Information

ACT 262 (HB1466) adds definitions to the Fair Mortgage Lending Act, regulates covered institution servicers, establishes corporate governance for covered institution servicers, clarifies surety bond and audited financial statement requirements, and establishes standards for safeguarding customer information.

Mortgage Trigger Lead - Misleading or Deceptive Manner

ACT 263 (HB1184) prohibits the use of a mortgage trigger lead in a misleading or deceptive manner under the Fair Mortgage Lending Act.

CORRECTIONS

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

Reports to the Governor and the General Assembly

ACT 358 (HB1593) requires the Board of Corrections to submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual report of the work of the Division of Correction and the Division of Community Correction after each fiscal year. The act eliminates the individual reporting requirements of the Division of Community Correction and Division of Correction.

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES - GENERALLY

Sex Designation of Restrooms, Changing Rooms, and Sleeping Quarters

ACT 955 (SB486) requires domestic violence shelters, state and local correctional facilities, and public buildings to designate multi-occupancy restrooms, changing rooms, and sleeping quarters based on an individual's sex; prohibits a person from entering a restroom or changing room that is not designated for his or her sex; and prohibits a shelter, correctional facility, or public building from requiring a person to share sleeping quarters with a member of the opposite sex. The act creates exceptions for persons entering a restroom, changing room, or sleeping quarters for certain purposes and allows a shelter, correctional facility, or governmental entity to adopt policies to accommodate individuals with disabilities, certain children, and elderly persons requiring aid. The act creates a private cause of action by a person against a shelter, correctional facility, or governmental entity that violates the act if certain circumstances exist.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Community Correction Centers

ACT 723 (SB539) updates references to community correction centers and the Department of Corrections throughout the Arkansas Code and transfers the Sex Offender Community Notification Section and the Residential Services Section of the Division of Community Correction to the Department of Corrections. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 17, 2025.

INMATES

Denied Participation in Furlough Programs

ACT 137 (SB214) prohibits an inmate from participating in a meritorious furlough program of the Division of Correction if the inmate was convicted of murder in the second degree.

Notification of Incarceration of a Veteran

ACT 506 (HB1077) requires the administrator of a state correctional facility or local correctional facility to notify the Department of Veterans Affairs if a veteran is in custody and has a sentence of incarceration of six (6) months or more. The act requires the administrator to notify the Department of Veterans Affairs of the release of a veteran from custody and to provide reasonable access to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Veterans Affairs to assist an inmate who is a veteran to apply for any benefits or treatment for which he or she may be eligible. The act also requires the administrator to make the veteran status of an inmate available upon the request of certain persons.

CORRECTIONS

INMATES

Recidivism Reduction System

ACT 694 (HB1931) creates a recidivism reduction system within the Department of Corrections to address factors that lead to recidivism by requiring a validated risk and needs assessment to be conducted and a case plan to be developed for each inmate and by requiring the Department of Corrections to provide recidivism reduction programs and activities and specific reentry preparation and services to inmates. The act requires the Board of Corrections to report to the Governor and the General Assembly on various aspects of the recidivism reduction system, requires the Department of Inspector General to perform biennial audits of the recidivism reduction system, and requires the Superintendent of the Arkansas Correctional School District, in coordination with the Department of Education, to conduct a feasibility study to implement improvements to the Arkansas Correctional School District. The act is identical to Act 769 of 2025. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 16, 2025.

ACT 769 (SB590) creates a recidivism reduction system within the Department of Corrections to address factors that lead to recidivism by requiring a validated risk and needs assessment to be conducted and a case plan to be developed for each inmate and by requiring the Department of Corrections to provide recidivism reduction programs and activities and specific reentry preparation and services to inmates. The act requires the Board of Corrections to report to the Governor and the General Assembly on various aspects of the recidivism reduction system, requires the Department of Inspector General to perform biennial audits of the recidivism reduction system, and requires the Superintendent of the Arkansas Correctional School District, in coordination with the Department of Education, to conduct a feasibility study to implement improvements to the Arkansas Correctional School District. The act is identical to Act 694 of 2025. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 17, 2025.

PROBATION AND PAROLE

Recidivism Reduction - Needs and Risks

ACT 670 (SB485) requires any conditions for probation, parole, or post-release supervision to be narrowly tailored to account for the rehabilitation of the supervised person and his or her specific risks and needs. The act requires the Administrative Office of the Courts to consult with the Department of Corrections to develop training and judicial education on the use of evidence-based practices to reduce recidivism and requires the Division of Community Correction and the Division of Correction to develop incentives and sanctions to encourage prosocial behavior and sanction violations. The act requires the department to annually evaluate public and private treatment and service providers.

Restricted Release Felony

ACT 356 (HB1563) amends the definition of "restricted release felony" with respect to release eligibility for a felony committed on or after January 1, 2025, and adds the offense of knowingly exposing another person to fentanyl in the first degree to the definition of "restricted release felony" for which a person is not eligible for release until he or she has served at least eighty-five percent (85%) of the sentence imposed.

Work-for-Time Credit

ACT 763 (SB537) creates a sentence credit program for a person on probation, parole, or post-release supervision to earn day-for-day credit for eligible employment to reduce his or her sentence of probation, parole, or post-release supervision. The act requires a supervised offender participating in the program to provide verifiable documentation of his or her work to a supervising officer to earn credit against a sentence. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 17, 2025.

CORRECTIONS

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS - LAW ENFORCEMENT, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Title 12

ACT 172 (HB1356) makes technical corrections recommended by the Arkansas Code Revision Commission to Title 12 of the Arkansas Code.

COURTS

APPELLATE COURTS

Facial Constitutional Challenges

ACT 975 (HB1832) gives the Court of Appeals exclusive original jurisdiction over a facial constitutional challenge in which a party seeks to have a provision of an act of the General Assembly, a provision of the Arkansas Code, or a provision of an administrative rule or regulation declared unconstitutional in all of its applications under the United States Constitution or the Arkansas Constitution. The act is effective on and after November 1, 2025.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Practice of Law by Corporations or Associations Prohibited - Exception

ACT 843 (HB1895) allows a corporation or voluntary association to employ an attorney to represent affiliates of the corporation or voluntary association.

Unauthorized Practice of Law - Intent

ACT 110 (HB1282) prohibits a person not licensed to practice law from engaging in certain activities with the intent to obtain an economic benefit for himself or herself.

CIRCUIT COURTS

Installment Payments by a Criminal Defendant

ACT 365 (HB1603) requires payments made by a criminal defendant in circuit court to be first allocated to restitution and requires the remaining installment payments to be applied to court costs and fines once restitution is paid in full.

Nineteenth Judicial District

ACT 220 (SB234) creates an additional judgeship in the Nineteenth Judicial District - West of the circuit court system. The act requires the new judgeship vacancy to be filled by election during the 2026 general election. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 1, 2025.

Recommendation for Revocation, Suspension, or Nonrenewal of a Driver's License

ACT 980 (HB1926) requires a defendant who claims an inability to pay a fine ordered by a circuit court to provide the circuit court with information concerning the defendant's monthly expenses. The act also requires a circuit court to consider the defendant's monthly expenses before requesting that the Department of Finance and Administration revoke, suspend, or nonrenew the defendant's driver's license for failure to pay court-ordered fines.

DISTRICT COURTS

Disbursement of Fines and Penalties Collected - Cost Sharing for District Court Expenses

ACT 993 (HB1178) distinguishes the sums collected in district court for cases stemming from acts committed within a town or city in the district from sums collected in district court for cases stemming from acts committed in the town or city in which the court sits for the purposes of the district court clerk's accounting records. The act provides for a town or city that does not operate a district court to receive the sums collected in cases for that town or city and allows a town or city that does not operate a district court to enter into an agreement to contribute to the operational expenses of the district court with jurisdiction over matters in the town or city.

COURTS

DISTRICT COURTS

Judge Salaries - Financial Matters

ACT 371 (HB1661) eliminates the obligation of cities and counties to pay for the salaries of state district court judges and allows cities and counties to retain fifty percent (50%) of uniform court costs and filing fees collected in the district court. The act reduces the amount of the installment fee collected by a district court for cases filed on or after January 1, 2026, and limits the total installment fees to be collected for a single fine. The act repeals statutes related to local district courts and requires the state to pay the salaries of state district court judges. The act also creates a new technology fee for criminal and traffic cases.

DRUG COURTS

Specialty Courts

ACT 691 (HB1835) establishes the Division of Specialty Court Programs within the Administrative Office of the Courts, amends and repeals portions of the law regarding individual specialty court programs, and provides for the application of certain laws to all of the specialty court programs. The act repeals and replaces provisions related to the dismissal of cases and record sealing upon successful completion of a specialty court program.

FEES

Court Fees to General Revenue - Justice System Fee Task Force

ACT 989 (SB575) requires driver's license reinstatement fees collected by the Office of Driver Services and installment fees collected in a district court or a circuit court to be deposited as general revenue. The act eliminates a portion of the court technology fee collected from criminal and traffic cases. The act creates the Justice System Fee Task Force to study the fees in the justice system and make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding the possible alteration or elimination of those fees. Sections 1 through 13 of the act concerning the redirection of fees to general revenue and the court technology fee are effective on and after July 1, 2026.

FUNDING

State Administration of Justice Fund - Distribution of Revenue

ACT 162 (HB1407) repeals the allocation from the State Administration of Justice Fund to the Arkansas District Judges Council, Inc. for the Executive Director of the Arkansas District Judges Council, Inc.

JUDGES

Compensation for Retired Judges Appointed to Temporary Service

ACT 370 (HB1644) allows a retired judge to serve as a special judge immediately upon leaving office. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after March 20, 2025.

Elections - Use of Prefix on Ballot for Supreme Court or Court of Appeals

ACT 126 (HB1223) allows a candidate for the office of Justice of the Supreme Court or Judge of the Court of Appeals who is serving in that position as an appointee to use the title of that position as a prefix on the ballot in an election for nonpartisan judicial office.

Elections - Use of Prefix When Filing as Candidate for Supreme Court or Court of Appeals

ACT 715 (HB1891) allows a person filing as a candidate for the office of Justice of the Supreme Court or Judge of the Court of Appeals who is serving in that position as an appointee to use the title of that position as a prefix when filing as a candidate. The act is identical to Act 761 of 2025.

ACT 761 (SB516) allows a person filing as a candidate for the office of Justice of the Supreme Court or Judge of the Court of Appeals who is serving in that position as an appointee to use the title of that position as a prefix when filing as a candidate. The act is identical to Act 715 of 2025.

COURTS

JURISDICTION

Facial Constitutional Challenges

ACT 975 (HB1832) gives the Court of Appeals exclusive original jurisdiction over a facial constitutional challenge in which a party seeks to have a provision of an act of the General Assembly, a provision of the Arkansas Code, or a provision of an administrative rule or regulation declared unconstitutional in all of its applications under the United States Constitution or the Arkansas Constitution. The act is effective on and after November 1, 2025.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS

Discharge from Parole or Post-Release Supervision

ACT 1001 (SB457) requires the Post-Prison Transfer Board to notify the prosecuting attorney when considering the release of a person who is on parole or post-release supervision, was sentenced to a term exceeding five (5) years for an offense the person committed as a minor, and has served at least five (5) years on parole or post-release supervision without a violation. The act requires the person to be discharged from parole or post-release supervision if the prosecuting attorney does not object within sixty (60) days of notification.

Firearm Awarded upon Retirement

ACT 368 (HB1629) allows a prosecuting attorney or deputy prosecuting attorney authorized to carry a firearm to be awarded the firearm carried during his or her tenure as prosecuting attorney or deputy prosecuting attorney upon his or her retirement.

Redesignation of the Fourteenth Judicial District

ACT 15 (HB1006) redesignates the Fourteenth Judicial District from a Division B Judicial District to a Division A Judicial District. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after February 3, 2025.

CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE

ATTEMPT, CONSPIRACY, AND SOLICITATION

Classification - Fentanyl Offenses

ACT 420 (HB1552) provides that criminal attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy to commit the offenses of aggravated death by delivery, predatory marketing of fentanyl to minors, or trafficking of fentanyl are Class Y felonies.

CRIMINAL LIABILITY

Mental Disease or Defect - Forensic Evaluations

ACT 733 (SB313) amends the manner in which a party may raise the issue of a defendant's fitness to proceed or lack of criminal responsibility. The act allows services provided to a defendant to restore his or her fitness to proceed to be provided in a jail. The act allows a court to order the administration of medication to maintain a defendant's fitness to proceed. The act requires the Department of Human Services to reimburse a county for the cost of medication prescribed to restore a defendant's fitness to proceed if the department cannot accept the defendant after the defendant was ordered to the custody of the department.

DEFENSES AND JUSTIFICATION

Juvenile Victim of Human Trafficking

ACT 1003 (SB620) creates an affirmative defense to a nonviolent criminal offense for a person who is seventeen (17) years or younger if at the time of the offense the person was a victim of human trafficking and engaged in the conduct of the offense as a direct result of being a victim of human trafficking. The act requires a court to consider specific factors of a juvenile's history when making a decision regarding juvenile jurisdiction or when determining a sentence for a juvenile.

EXPUNGEMENT

Delinquency Adjudication

ACT 754 (SB487) requires records of all delinquency adjudications other than for a felony involving violence to be expunged on an individual's twenty-first birthday.

CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE

JURISDICTION

Facial Constitutional Challenges

ACT 975 (HB1832) gives the Court of Appeals exclusive original jurisdiction over a facial constitutional challenge in which a party seeks to have a provision of an act of the General Assembly, a provision of the Arkansas Code, or a provision of an administrative rule or regulation declared unconstitutional in all of its applications under the United States Constitution or the Arkansas Constitution. The act is effective on and after November 1, 2025.

JUVENILES

Discharge from Parole or Post-Release Supervision

ACT 1001 (SB457) requires the Post-Prison Transfer Board to notify the prosecuting attorney when considering the release of a person who is on parole or post-release supervision, was sentenced to a term exceeding five (5) years for an offense the person committed as a minor, and has served at least five (5) years on parole or post-release supervision without a violation. The act requires the person to be discharged from parole or post-release supervision if the prosecuting attorney does not object within sixty (60) days of notification.

OFFENSES AGAINST PROPERTY

Automated Teller Machine Impairment

ACT 757 (SB511) creates the criminal offense of automated teller machine impairment as a Class D felony.

Discharge of Firearms or Throwing Objects at a Railroad or Street Car

ACT 27 (SB16) changes the classification of the offense of discharge of firearms or throwing objects at a railroad or street car to a Class A misdemeanor and provides that the offense is committed when the person acts knowingly.

Gift Card Fraud

ACT 659 (SB302) creates the criminal offense of gift card fraud and classifies gift card fraud by the value of the gift card or gift card redemption information or the aggregate value of gift cards or gift card redemption information acquired, retained, obtained, or used within one hundred twenty (120) days. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 16, 2025.

Mail Theft - Reproduction of a Mail Receptacle Key or Lock

ACT 759 (SB513) creates the criminal offense of mail theft as a Class D felony for the first offense or Class A felony for a second or subsequent offense and creates the criminal offense of theft or unauthorized reproduction of a mail receptacle key or lock as a Class D felony for the first offense or Class A felony for a second or subsequent offense.

Organized Retail Theft

ACT 321 (SB300) creates the criminal offense of organized retail theft and classifies organized retail theft by the value of the property or aggregate value of the property stolen within one hundred twenty (120) days. The act allows instances of organized retail theft that take place in more than one (1) judicial district to be aggregated and charged in the circuit court of any judicial district in which one (1) or more instances occurred. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after March 18, 2025.

Tampering with Rail Infrastructure

ACT 528 (HB1757) creates the offense of tampering with rail infrastructure as a Class D felony.

CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE**OFFENSES AGAINST PROPERTY*****Theft of Property - Cargo***

ACT 322 (SB301) creates an enhanced sentence of an additional term of imprisonment not to exceed ten (10) years for theft of property when the property stolen is cargo. The act provides that the enhanced sentence is consecutive to any other sentence imposed and the person subject to the enhanced sentence is ineligible to receive earned release credits for the enhanced portion of the sentence. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after March 18, 2025.

Theft of Property - Postal Package

ACT 833 (HB1779) makes the offense of theft of property a Class C felony when the property stolen is a postal package that was removed from the curtilage of a residence or from a delivery vehicle at any point in the delivery route.

Unlawful Possession of a Skimmer

ACT 760 (SB514) increases the penalties for the unlawful possession of a skimmer for a second or subsequent offense by making it an unclassified felony with a mandatory fine of not more than twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) and a mandatory term of imprisonment of at least one (1) year but not more than ten (10) years.

Unlawful Squatting

ACT 238 (HB1049) creates the offense of unlawful squatting and provides that a law enforcement agency may accept a report of unlawful squatting only from the owner of the premises or an authorized representative of the owner. The act classifies the offense of unlawful squatting as a Class B misdemeanor for a first offense, a Class A misdemeanor for a second offense, and a Class D felony for a third offense. The act provides that it is a Class D felony for a person accused of unlawful squatting to produce a false document to prove lawful authority and amends the offense of filing a false report to include a false report of alleging the offense of unlawful squatting.

OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, OR WELFARE***Abortion - Medical Emergency Definition Changes***

ACT 387 (HB1610) amends the Arkansas Human Life Protection Act and the Arkansas Unborn Child Protection Act to modify the definition of "medical emergency," exclude certain conditions from the definition of "medical emergency," and define the term "reasonable medical judgment." The act also removes and replaces the affirmative defense in the Arkansas Human Life Protection Act and the Arkansas Unborn Child Protection Act that relates to a licensed physician providing medical treatment to a pregnant woman that results in an accidental or unintentional injury or death to the unborn child with a simple defense to the prohibitions on abortion under the acts.

Abuse of a Corpse - Sale of Corpse Intended for Cremation or Burial

ACT 200 (SB17) provides that a person commits abuse of a corpse if he or she knowingly sells a corpse or any part of a corpse after the corpse has been authorized for final disposition through cremation or burial.

Animals - Temporary Seizure

ACT 688 (HB1824) authorizes a law enforcement officer to temporarily secure a dog or cat and transfer temporary possession of the dog or cat to an appropriate place of custody in certain circumstances.

Coerced Criminal Abortion by Means of Fraud

ACT 485 (HB1551) creates the criminal offense of coerced criminal abortion by means of fraud, which prohibits a person from knowingly administering or giving an abortion-inducing drug to a pregnant woman without her knowledge or consent with the purpose to cause an abortion. The act provides that coerced criminal abortion by means of fraud is a Class B felony.

CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE

OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, OR WELFARE

Cruelty to Animals - Equine Body Condition Score

ACT 741 (SB563) authorizes a body condition score to be used to determine if adequate food and water have been supplied for an equine under the offense of cruelty to animals.

DWI - Ignition Interlock Device

ACT 841 (HB1875) requires a certain calibration setting for an ignition interlock device and requires that an ignition interlock device have the capability to randomly retest a driver's blood alcohol level while the vehicle's engine is on, store the results of each test, and take and retain a digital image of the driver during each test. The act allows a mandatory period of use of an ignition interlock device to be extended in certain circumstances and establishes the process for obtaining a certification of compliance for the removal of an ignition interlock device. The act is effective on and after July 1, 2026.

Harassment - Use of a Tracking Device

ACT 600 (HB1641) adds the use of a tracking device to determine the location or movement of a person without the person's consent to the conduct constituting the criminal offense of harassment. The act excludes from the offense the use of a tracking device by a parent or legal guardian of a minor to track the location or movement of the minor.

Medical Marijuana - Unlawful Uses

ACT 271 (HB1452) makes the unlawful transport of medical marijuana a standalone offense and creates the offense of unlawful use of medical marijuana, which criminalizes the use of medical marijuana through vapor inhalation or the smoking of medical marijuana in a prohibited place as a Class C misdemeanor. The act creates the offense of possession of uncontained medical marijuana in a motor vehicle as a Class C misdemeanor.

Negligent Discharge of Firearms While Hunting Deer - Repealed

ACT 26 (SB15) repeals the criminal offense of negligent discharge of firearms while hunting deer.

Promoting Prostitution

ACT 663 (SB427) makes the offense of promoting prostitution in the first degree a Class C felony for a first offense or a Class B felony for a second or subsequent offense. The act makes the offense of promoting prostitution in the second degree a Class D felony for a first offense or a Class C felony for a second or subsequent offense. The act makes the offense of promoting prostitution in the third degree a Class A misdemeanor for a first offense or a Class D felony for a second or subsequent offense. The act requires a person convicted of a promoting prostitution offense to pay a fine that increases with subsequent convictions and directs the fine payments to be deposited into the Human Trafficking Victim Support Fund. The act creates civil penalties for a business involved in a prostitution violation, requires a business involved in a prostitution violation to be subject to a suspension of any business license granted to the business by the state and a monetary civil penalty, and increases with subsequent violations the length of the suspension of a business license and the amount of the monetary civil penalty.

Sexual Solicitation - Classification of Crime

ACT 661 (SB314) makes the offense of sexual solicitation a Class A misdemeanor for a first offense and a Class D felony for a second or subsequent offense.

Stalking in the Second Degree

ACT 832 (HB1778) adds conduct that places a person in imminent fear of the death or serious bodily injury of a member of his or her household or in imminent fear of unwanted sexual intercourse, a deviate sexual activity, or other sexual contact against himself or herself or against a family or household member to the offense of stalking in the second degree. The act amends the definition of "course of conduct" with respect to stalking to include without limitation sending mail or electronic communication to a person via electronic mail, text message, or other electronic message using the internet, a website, or a social media platform.

CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE

OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, OR WELFARE

Threat of Harm upon a Financial Institution Employee

ACT 770 (SB597) creates the criminal offense of threat of harm upon a financial institution employee as a Class B misdemeanor.

Unmanned Aircraft System - Images

ACT 597 (HB1148) creates the criminal offenses of unlawful use of an unmanned aircraft system related to images and unlawful possession, disclosure, display, distribution, or use of an image captured by an unmanned aircraft system. The act creates a civil action for damages caused by a violation of the criminal offenses related to unmanned aircraft systems and establishes a list of conduct that constitutes the lawful capture of an image using an unmanned aircraft system.

OFFENSES AGAINST THE ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT

Fleeing - Increased Penalty

ACT 822 (HB1844) increases the penalty for the offense of fleeing by means of a vehicle or conveyance for a person who jumps from a moving vehicle or conveyance while fleeing.

Fraud upon State-Supported Retirement System

ACT 112 (HB1317) prohibits a person from knowingly making a material false statement or representation to the State Department for Social Security Administration Disability Determination or a state-supported retirement system for the purpose of obtaining a benefit or payment, defeating or wrongfully increasing or decreasing a claim for benefit or payment, or aiding and abetting another person to do so. The act allows the executive director of a state-supported retirement system to refer a suspected violation for investigation to the Attorney General or to the Sixth Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney. The act also makes it a Class D felony for a person to knowingly make a material false statement or materially falsify a record in an attempt to defraud the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System, the State Police Retirement System, the Division of Arkansas State Police, or the Arkansas Judicial Retirement System. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after February 18, 2025.

Obstructing Governmental Operations

ACT 1000 (SB355) provides that a person commits the offense of obstructing governmental operations if he or she knowingly fails to appear to testify at a trial or court hearing in a criminal matter after receiving in-person service of a subpoena issued by a judge or a court clerk.

Unlawful Removal or Failure to Charge an Electronic Monitoring Device

ACT 109 (HB1263) creates the offense of unlawful removal or failure to charge an electronic monitoring device as a Class A misdemeanor. The act also requires a person convicted of the unlawful removal or failure to charge an electronic monitoring device to be ordered to pay restitution for the cost to repair or replace the device if it is damaged, lost, or destroyed.

Violation of an Order of Protection

ACT 831 (HB1764) makes the offense of violation of an order of protection a Class D felony if the offense is committed within five (5) years of a violation of an equivalent domestic abuse order of protection of another state or a foreign jurisdiction.

OFFENSES AGAINST THE PERSON

Aggravated Assault upon a Healthcare Worker

ACT 753 (SB435) creates the criminal offense of aggravated assault upon a healthcare worker as a Class D felony.

CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE

OFFENSES AGAINST THE PERSON

Capital Rape

ACT 662 (SB375) creates the offense of capital rape, which is punishable by death or life imprisonment without parole if committed by a person who was at least eighteen (18) years of age at the time of offense. The act mandates a sentence of life imprisonment with the possibility of parole after twenty (20) years if the defendant was younger than eighteen (18) years of age at the time of the offense. The act incorporates capital rape into numerous provisions related to crimes of violence and capital offenses.

Human Trafficking - Enhanced Sentence - Trafficked Persons

ACT 366 (HB1609) creates an enhanced sentence of an additional term of imprisonment not to exceed five (5) years if a person recruits, entices, or obtains a trafficked person from a shelter or facility operating as a residential treatment center that serves runaway youth, foster children, the homeless, or other persons at risk of being subjected to human trafficking, domestic violence, or sexual assault; a correctional facility while the trafficked person was confined in the correctional facility; an adoptive, foster, or provisional foster home; a childcare institution; or a detention facility, forestry camp, training school, or other facility operating primarily for the detention of children who are determined by a court to be delinquent. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after March 20, 2025.

Human Trafficking - Use of a Communication Device

ACT 682 (HB1763) creates the criminal offense of unlawful use of a communication device during the commission of a human trafficking offense as a Class C felony.

Human Trafficking Offenses - Statute of Limitations

ACT 987 (SB431) authorizes the prosecution of certain human trafficking-related offenses to be commenced at any time.

Predicate Offenses for Certain Homicides

ACT 599 (HB1630) provides that a person commits capital murder or murder in the first degree if the person or an accomplice causes the death of a person under circumstances manifesting extreme indifference to the value of human life in the course or furtherance of a controlled substance offense involving an actual delivery of a controlled substance or in the immediate flight from a controlled substance offense involving an actual delivery of a controlled substance. The act provides that a person commits manslaughter if the person or an accomplice negligently causes the death of a person or another person who is resisting the offense or flight from the offense causes the death of a person in the course or furtherance of a controlled substance offense involving an actual delivery of a controlled substance or in the immediate flight from a controlled substance offense involving an actual delivery of a controlled substance.

Registered Sex Offender - Prohibited Locations

ACT 158 (HB1437) prohibits a person required to register as a sex offender from entering within one hundred feet (100') of a water park, swimming area, or children's playground contained within a public park and repeals the law prohibiting a person required to register as a sex offender and classified as a Level 3 or Level 4 offender from knowingly entering a water park owned or operated by a local government.

Robbery - Threat of Physical Force

ACT 758 (SB512) amends the law concerning robbery and aggravated robbery to include a circumstance that would cause a reasonable person to believe the use of physical force is imminent.

CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE

OFFENSES AGAINST THE PERSON

Unlawful Creation or Distribution of Deepfake Visual Material

ACT 827 (HB1529) creates the offense of unlawful creation or distribution of deepfake visual material, which criminalizes the act of creating or distributing visual material generated, modified, or adapted using technology to falsely depict an identifiable person in a state of nudity or engaging in sexual contact such that an ordinary person viewing the material would think it is an authentic depiction. The act provides that unlawful creation or distribution of deepfake visual material is a Class A misdemeanor for a first offense and a Class D felony for a second or subsequent offense.

Video Voyeurism - Statute of Limitations and Defenses

ACT 765 (SB555) extends the period in which a prosecution may be commenced for the offense of video voyeurism to within one (1) year after the offense is discovered or should reasonably have been discovered by the victim of the video voyeurism. The act provides that it is not a defense to prosecution for video voyeurism that the defendant was in a romantic relationship with the victim of the video voyeurism.

OFFENSES INVOLVING FAMILIES AND DEPENDENTS

Computer Crimes Against Minors

ACT 361 (SB328) raises the age range that a person depicted engaging in sexually explicit conduct is considered a minor from being under seventeen (17) years of age to being under eighteen (18) years of age.

Computer Generated Sexually Explicit Material Depicting a Child

ACT 977 (HB1877) amends the law concerning criminal offenses related to possession of sexually explicit material that depicts a child to include a computer generated image that is indistinguishable from the image of an actual child. The act excludes from the offenses material possessed as part of a law enforcement investigation or material created or controlled by an interactive computer service involved in adversarial testing to prevent, detect, or mitigate the risk of artificial intelligence systems generating material depicting sexually explicit conduct involving a child. The act also renames the offense of possession or use of child sexual abuse material as "electronic facilitation of child sexual abuse."

Harboring an Endangered Runaway Minor

ACT 667 (SB442) creates the offense of harboring an endangered runaway minor as a Class A misdemeanor for a first offense or a Class D felony for a second or subsequent offense. The act creates an affirmative defense to harboring an endangered runaway minor.

Offenses Against Children - Child Sex Doll

ACT 987 (SB431) creates the offense of possession, manufacture, transport, or distribution of a child sex doll as a Class B, Class C, or Class D felony depending on the specific conduct involved.

Outstanding Warrants

ACT 828 (HB1433) requires a law enforcement officer who is executing or serving an order of protection on a person to also check for an outstanding criminal warrant for the person being served before executing service.

Sexually Grooming a Child

ACT 683 (HB1777) amends the offense of sexually grooming a child to include the act of bribing or attempting to bribe a child to participate in sexual intercourse, sexually explicit conduct, or deviate sexual activity.

CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE

OFFENSES INVOLVING FAMILIES AND DEPENDENTS

Unlawful Distribution of an Intimate Image

ACT 981 (HB1967) amends the law to criminalize the unlawful distribution of an image that depicts an identifiable person in a state of nudity or engaging in sexual contact without the consent of the person depicted. The act eliminates the requirement that the person distributing the image be a family or household member of the person depicted or be in a current or former dating relationship with the person depicted. The act provides that the consent of the person depicted in the creation of the image does not constitute consent for the distribution of the image. The act makes unlawful distribution of an intimate image a Class C felony, Class D felony, or Class A misdemeanor depending on certain factors.

OFFENSES RELATED TO VEHICLES

Operation of a Motor Vehicle with a Modified Bumper

ACT 492 (SB411) creates the offense of operation of a motor vehicle with a modified bumper.

Operation of Commercial Motor Vehicle in Certain Circumstances

ACT 604 (HB1745) creates the offenses of operating a commercial motor vehicle without proper documentation, presenting a false foreign commercial driver license, and operating a commercial motor vehicle without sufficient English language proficiency.

RESTITUTION, FORFEITURE, AND DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY

Human Trafficking - Forfeiture of Property

ACT 667 (SB442) provides for the forfeiture of property used in human trafficking.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Warrantless Searches

ACT 983 (HB1979) allows warrantless searches by a law enforcement officer of a person placed on suspended imposition of sentence.

SENTENCING AND PENALTIES

Criminal Illegals - Enhanced Penalties

ACT 654 (SB426) establishes enhanced penalties for illegal aliens who commit serious felonies involving violence, requires county sheriffs' offices and the Division of Correction to participate in the Warrant Service Officer Program, and expands the state's current ban on sanctuary cities to include counties and unincorporated areas.

Enhanced Penalty for Offenses Against a Child

ACT 976 (HB1865) establishes enhanced penalties for certain criminal offenses when committed by an adult against a child.

Factors Considered During Transfer or Sentencing Hearing

ACT 988 (SB458) requires a court to consider the impact of factors such as trauma and involvement with the child welfare system on a person who committed a crime as a minor during the person's transfer or sentencing hearing. The act also requires a court to consider the differences between a juvenile offender and an adult offender, including without limitation the diminished culpability of a juvenile compared to the culpability of an adult offender.

Fines, Costs, and Restitution - Collection After Default

ACT 277 (SB260) allows a court to use the procedures for the collection of unpaid restitution to intercept a defendant's state income tax return to collect fines, fees, or costs owed after the defendant defaults on the payment of the fines, fees, or costs.

Method of Execution - Nitrogen Gas

ACT 302 (HB1489) amends the method of execution to include nitrogen gas for nitrogen-hypoxia execution.

CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE**SENTENCING AND PENALTIES*****Postponement of Judgment in District Court***

ACT 275 (SB244) allows a district court to postpone judgment in a case in the criminal division or traffic division of a district court and place the defendant on probation status for up to one (1) year. The act allows a district court to enter a final judgment or dismiss the case at the end of the postponement period. The act excludes certain cases from eligibility for the postponement of a judgment and requires restitution, fines, fees, or court costs to be assessed and collected as if a final judgment of conviction were entered in a case that is dismissed.

Restitution for Victims of Human Trafficking - Crime Victims Reparations

ACT 666 (SB430) requires a court to order a person convicted of a human trafficking offense to pay mandatory restitution to the victim or other entity as appropriate for costs, expenses, and losses related to being a victim of human trafficking. The act extends the period of time in which a claim may be filed with the Crime Victims Reparations Board to five (5) years after the injury or death upon which the claim is based or five (5) years after the date the victim reaches eighteen (18) years of age, if the victim was a minor at the time of the injury or death.

SEX OFFENDERS***Driver's License - Designation of a Level 3 or Level 4 Registered Sex Offender***

ACT 984 (HB1984) requires an applicant for a driver's license or identification card to inform the Office of Driver Services whether the applicant is required to register as a sex offender, if the applicant is currently registered as a sex offender, and if the applicant is a Level 3 or Level 4 sex offender. The act requires that a designation be placed on a driver's license or identification card issued to a Level 3 or Level 4 sex offender. The act also allows the Office of Motor Vehicle to access sex offender registration records for the purposes of the issuance of a driver's license or identification card to a registered sex offender.

Prohibited Locations

ACT 158 (HB1437) prohibits a person required to register as a sex offender from entering within one hundred feet (100') of a water park, swimming area, or children's playground contained within a public park and repeals the law prohibiting a person required to register as a sex offender and classified as a Level 3 or Level 4 offender from knowingly entering a water park owned or operated by a local government.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS - CRIMINAL LAW***Title 5***

ACT 171 (HB1355) makes technical corrections recommended by the Arkansas Code Revision Commission to Title 5 of the Arkansas Code.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS - PRACTICE, PROCEDURE, AND COURTS***Title 16***

ACT 173 (HB1357) makes technical corrections recommended by the Arkansas Code Revision Commission to Title 16 of the Arkansas Code.

VICTIMS***Extended Post-Conviction No Contact Order***

ACT 367 (HB1628) allows a court to issue an extended post-conviction no contact order to a defendant after a conviction for sexual assault in the second degree.

Human Trafficking

ACT 665 (SB429) requires a court to issue a no contact order in a criminal case in which the defendant is charged with a human trafficking offense. The act amends the definition of "offense against a victim who is a minor" with respect to the rights of victims of crime to add any human trafficking offense in which the victim is a minor. The act requires a court to grant a petition to seal a criminal conviction if the conviction was obtained as a result of the person being a victim of human trafficking at the time of the offense and the person was a minor when the offense was committed or the conviction was for prostitution.

CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE

VICTIMS

National Human Trafficking Hotline - Display of Information

ACT 484 (HB1474) requires the display of information about the National Human Trafficking Hotline in certain restrooms and in a nail salon or massage business licensed by the Department of Health and removes the requirement that the information be posted in an abortion facility.

Rights of Victims of Crimes - Definition of "Sex Offense"

ACT 316 (HB1581) amends the definition of "sex offense" with respect to the rights of victims of crime to include the trafficking of persons or the grooming of a minor for future sex trafficking.

WARRANTS AND CITATIONS

Outstanding Warrants

ACT 828 (HB1433) requires a law enforcement officer who is executing or serving an order of protection on a person to also check for an outstanding criminal warrant for the person being served before executing service.

Warrantless Searches

ACT 983 (HB1979) allows warrantless searches by a law enforcement officer of a person placed on suspended imposition of sentence.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

Consolidated Incentive Act - Investment Tax Credit - Requirements and Amount of Credit

ACT 881 (HB1922) allows an entity to use the investment tax credit allowed under the Consolidated Incentive Act of 2003 to offset its income tax or sales tax liability, changes the amount of the investment tax credit that the Arkansas Economic Development Commission may offer, repeals the tax incentives offered for technology-based enterprises, and creates an income tax credit for businesses that relocate their corporate headquarters to Arkansas. The act also creates a claw-back provision for businesses that receive tax incentives but do not satisfy the annual payroll requirements for the tax incentives. The act is effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

Consolidated Incentive Act - Modernization and Automation Tax Credit

ACT 882 (HB1935) creates the modernization and automation tax credit for businesses that invest in projects in the state. The act is effective on and after October 1, 2025.

Healthy Food Retailer Program - Creation

ACT 870 (HB1965) requires the Arkansas Economic Development Commission to establish the Healthy Food Retailer Program to provide funding to retailers that sell affordable, high-quality, fresh produce and other affordable healthy food in communities with limited access to healthy, nutritional food. The act allows the commission to enter into a public-private partnership for the design and administration of the program.

Natural State Initiative Opportunity Zones

ACT 838 (HB1923) amends the definition of "eligible company" to reduce the minimum standards for investment in a tourism attraction project for a company to be eligible for inducements under the Arkansas Tourism Development Act and increases the boundary for a Natural State Initiative Opportunity Zone to one (1) mile outside the boundaries of a state park, a cultural or historic site, or a cultural or educational center.

DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY (ADFA)

Bond Issues - Program Fact Sheet Requirement - Repealed

ACT 468 (SB384) repeals the requirement that the Arkansas Development Finance Authority submit a program fact sheet to the Legislative Council and Arkansas Legislative Audit for each new bond issue.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY (ADFA)

Capital Access Fund Reporting Requirement - Repealed

ACT 466 (SB382) repeals the requirement that the Arkansas Development Finance Authority submit a report concerning the Capital Access Fund.

Venture Capital Investment Act of 2001 Reporting Requirement - Repealed

ACT 467 (SB383) repeals the annual report required concerning the activities of the investor group designated by the Arkansas Development Finance Authority and the use, redemption, and transfer of any tax credits allowed under the Venture Capital Investment Act of 2001.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (AEDC)

Arkansas Industry Training Program - Reporting Requirement - Repealed

ACT 446 (SB378) repeals the requirement that the Arkansas Economic Development Commission submit a quarterly report concerning the training activities of the Arkansas Industry Training Program.

Foreign Offices - Reporting Requirement - Repealed

ACT 447 (SB388) repeals the annual reporting requirement related to the progress of foreign offices of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission.

Rural Services Division - Reporting Requirement - Repealed

ACT 469 (SB385) repeals the requirement that the Rural Services Division of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission submit a biennial report concerning the activities of the division.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Arkansas Small Business Innovation Research Matching Grant Program

ACT 440 (SB218) makes the Arkansas Economic Development Commission responsible for the administration of the Arkansas Small Business Innovation Research Matching Grant Program.

EDUCATION - GENERAL

ADMINISTRATION - GENERALLY

Arkansas ACCESS Act - Board of Directors - Training on Audit Reports

ACT 340 (SB246) amends the law concerning the entities that may provide the training and instruction that members of a school district board of directors are required to receive regarding the interpretation of audit reports. The act is identical to Act 341 of 2025.

ACT 341 (HB1512) amends the law concerning the entities that may provide the training and instruction that members of a school district board of directors are required to receive regarding the interpretation of audit reports. The act is identical to Act 340 of 2025.

Arkansas ACCESS Act - Committees and Councils

ACT 340 (SB246) amends the membership and number of members constituting a quorum of the School Leadership Coordinating Council. The act amends the membership of the Safe Schools Committee and the entities with which the Arkansas Center for School Safety of the Criminal Justice Institute is required to collaborate. The act amends the membership of the Advisory Committee on Public School Academic Facilities, the Public School Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Committee, and the committee that develops and updates the Arkansas Dyslexia Resource Guide. The act amends the membership and the powers and duties of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and amends the membership of the Child Health Advisory Committee. The act also repeals the law related to the Council on Postsecondary Education and Career Readiness and replaces entities that the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education is required to collaborate with to relevant stakeholders related to the professional development schedule for licensed educators. The act is identical to Act 341 of 2025.

EDUCATION - GENERAL**ADMINISTRATION - GENERALLY*****Arkansas ACCESS Act - Committees and Councils***

ACT 341 (HB1512) amends the membership and number of members constituting a quorum of the School Leadership Coordinating Council. The act amends the membership of the Safe Schools Committee and the entities with which the Arkansas Center for School Safety of the Criminal Justice Institute is required to collaborate. The act amends the membership of the Advisory Committee on Public School Academic Facilities, the Public School Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Committee, and the committee that develops and updates the Arkansas Dyslexia Resource Guide. The act amends the membership and the powers and duties of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and amends the membership of the Child Health Advisory Committee. The act also repeals the law related to the Council on Postsecondary Education and Career Readiness and replaces entities that the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education is required to collaborate with to relevant stakeholders related to the professional development schedule for licensed educators. The act is identical to Act 340 of 2025.

CHARTER SCHOOLS***Annual Evaluation***

ACT 800 (HB1672) requires the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to conduct an annual evaluation of open-enrollment public charter schools based on the criteria specified in the open-enrollment public charter school's charter and the open-enrollment public charter school's letter grade and repeals specific statutory criteria that the division is required to consider while conducting an annual evaluation of an open-enrollment public charter school. The act also repeals the requirement that the division conduct an end-of-semester review of each open-enrollment public charter school and report on each open-enrollment public charter school's overall financial condition and student enrollment.

Charter Authorizing Panel

ACT 800 (HB1672) authorizes members of the charter authorizing panel to include individuals from outside the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, professional staff employed by the division, or the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education and requires the charter authorizing panel to consist of seven (7) members. The act requires the division to notify the State Board of Education of all recommendations regarding charters made by the charter authorizing panel and requires the state board to vote on each recommendation. The act also establishes a process for a public charter school or an applicant to become a public charter school to appeal an adverse ruling from the authorizer to the state board.

Definitions

ACT 800 (HB1672) defines "charter" as a performance-based contract that serves as a governing agreement for a public charter school, establishes certain standards for the public charter school, and meets certain other requirements. The act also includes a school that was previously designated as a school of innovation program within the definition of a "conversion public charter school".

Granting, Revoking, or Renewing a Charter

ACT 800 (HB1672) requires a public charter school's charter to be revoked if the public charter school receives an "F" letter grade for three (3) consecutive school years and provides a process for a public charter school to request a hearing to request reinstatement of its charter. The act requires the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop an application for a public school district to apply for conversion public charter school status. The act requires an applicant for an open-enrollment public charter school to provide certain information and requires a decision by the authorizer to renew a charter to be based on the academic, financial, and operational performance of a charter school over the term of a charter contract.

EDUCATION - GENERAL

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Reporting Requirements

ACT 800 (HB1672) repeals the requirement that a public charter school submit a written report to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education that contains certain information within ten (10) calendar days of the close of the first quarter of each school year and requires a public charter school to submit a report to the authorizer that contains certain information concerning applications, enrollment, disciplinary actions, and student assessment scores.

Waivers for Open-Enrollment Public Charter Schools

ACT 800 (HB1672) allows an open-enrollment public charter school that existed on or before July 1, 2025, to retain all waivers in effect for the open-enrollment public charter school for a certain period of time based on the letter grade the open-enrollment public charter school received for the 2022-2023 school year.

CURRICULUM

Arkansas ACCESS Act - Advanced Placement - Accelerated Learning

ACT 340 (SB246) replaces the advanced placement training and incentive program and laws related to advanced placement with accelerated learning and provides that funding for accelerated learning is contingent on legislative appropriations and criteria established by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education. The act is identical to Act 341 of 2025.

ACT 341 (HB1512) replaces the advanced placement training and incentive program and laws related to advanced placement with accelerated learning and provides that funding for accelerated learning is contingent on legislative appropriations and criteria established by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education. The act is identical to Act 340 of 2025.

Arkansas ACCESS Act - Common Course Numbering System

ACT 340 (SB246) requires the Division of Higher Education to collaborate with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to make recommendations for additions and alterations to the common course numbering system and to review the common course numbering system to begin aligning elementary and secondary courses beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year. The act is identical to Act 341 of 2025.

ACT 341 (HB1512) requires the Division of Higher Education to collaborate with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to make recommendations for additions and alterations to the common course numbering system and to review the common course numbering system to begin aligning elementary and secondary courses beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year. The act is identical to Act 340 of 2025.

Arkansas ACCESS Act - Smart Core - Advanced Placement - Accelerated Learning

ACT 340 (SB246) repeals the Arkansas Smart Core Incentive Funding Program, which provided financial incentives to encourage students to complete the Smart Core curriculum, and repeals the Arkansas Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Diploma Incentive Program Act of 1995, which provided participating schools with funding related to advanced placement courses and courses offered under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. The act replaces "endorsed concurrent enrollment course" with "concurrent credit course" throughout the law and amends the requirements for instructors in accelerated learning or concurrent credit courses. The act provides specific tuition rates for a concurrent credit course offered by a public school district or open-enrollment public charter school beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. The act is identical to Act 341 of 2025.

EDUCATION - GENERAL

CURRICULUM

Arkansas ACCESS Act - Smart Core - Advanced Placement - Accelerated Learning

ACT 341 (HB1512) repeals the Arkansas Smart Core Incentive Funding Program, which provided financial incentives to encourage students to complete the Smart Core curriculum, and repeals the Arkansas Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Diploma Incentive Program Act of 1995, which provided participating schools with funding related to advanced placement courses and courses offered under the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. The act replaces "endorsed concurrent enrollment course" with "concurrent credit course" throughout the law and amends the requirements for instructors in accelerated learning or concurrent credit courses. The act provides specific tuition rates for a concurrent credit course offered by a public school district or open-enrollment public charter school beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. The act is identical to Act 340 of 2025.

Arkansas History Requirement - Unit on Veterans

ACT 647 (SB515) requires the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation with veterans' organizations, to develop and implement a unit within existing Arkansas history course content guidelines that is dedicated to veterans and their families.

Community Service Hours - Documentation - Maintenance of Required Hours

ACT 803 (HB1756) allows a parent, legal guardian, or person standing in loco parentis to a student to document and maintain his or her child's required community service hours subject to certain requirements and allows the Department of Education to audit a student's community service hours.

Course Choice Program - Definition of "Course Provider"

ACT 730 (SB604) amends the entities that qualify as a "course provider" under the Course Choice Program and allows a public school district or an open-enrollment public charter school that does not have a rating of "D" or "F" to make one (1) or more courses available to eligible students under the Course Choice Program. The act requires an eligible student under the Course Choice Program to be a student in grades six through twelve (6-12).

Health Education - Human Fetal Growth and Development Education

ACT 915 (SB450) requires the Department of Education to include a human fetal growth and development discussion in the relevant academic standards. The act requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Health, to determine the appropriate grade levels for the discussion, which must include a high-definition ultrasound, the process of fertilization, and every stage of human development inside the uterus.

Instruction on Firearm Safety - Required

ACT 229 (HB1117) requires the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation with the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to determine the earliest grade in which it is appropriate for public school students to begin receiving instruction on firearm safety. The act also requires each public school district and open-enrollment public charter school to provide students with age-appropriate and grade-appropriate instruction on firearm safety annually beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. The act requires that firearm safety instruction include certain information and allows it to be delivered through various means.

Social Studies Standards - Beliefs of Founding Fathers

ACT 478 (HB1705) requires the religious and moral beliefs of the founding fathers to be embedded into existing social studies standards and courses for grades six through twelve (6-12), including the influence of their religious and moral beliefs on the founding documents of the United States.

EDUCATION - GENERAL

CURRICULUM

Social Studies Standards - Communism and Autocratic Government Education

ACT 134 (HB1060) requires the Department of Education to review and update current social studies standards for grades seven through twelve (7-12) before the 2026-2027 school year to include age-appropriate adjustments in order to ensure curricula, standards, materials, and units accurately compare and contrast the resiliency of the United States' constitutional republic with the failures of communism and autocratic government systems and other democratic government systems.

DISTRICT BOARDS OF EDUCATION

Access of Military Recruiters to School Facilities - Required

ACT 355 (HB1689) requires a public school district board of directors to grant access within each high school in its district to military forces recruiters to enable official recruiting representatives to inform students of educational and career opportunities available in the military. The act also requires the Secretary of the Military to collect information from Arkansas National Guard recruiters regarding compliance with this act by public school districts and prepare and submit an annual compliance report to the Secretary of the Department of Education.

Election Requirements - Unchanged Rate of Annual Ad Valorem Property Tax

ACT 399 (SB135) provides that if, in an odd-numbered year, the rate of an annual ad valorem property tax levied by a public school district board of directors is unchanged from the previous rate of the annual ad valorem property tax, the county board of election commissioners of the county in which a public school district is situated may, upon request of the public school district board of directors, reduce the number of polling places, conduct the election only by absentee ballot and early voting, or hold an election as part of the election declared to be by candidate only or through the selection of a qualified elector designated by the public school district board of directors. The act prohibits the county board of election commissioners of the county in which a public school district is situated from opening any polling places on an election date if the unchanged rate of the annual ad valorem property tax is the only issue to be voted on in an odd-numbered year. The act also requires the unchanged rate of the annual ad valorem property tax to be placed on the ballot if the election is held in conjunction with the preferential primary or general election.

Information Required on School District Websites

ACT 120 (SB89) amends the information a school district is required to include on its website to include minutes and agendas of regular, emergency, and special meetings of the school district board of directors and the names and email addresses of the members of the school district board of directors.

Meetings - Opportunity for Public Comment

ACT 902 (SB90) requires a public school district board of directors to allow a member of the public to give public comment for at least three (3) minutes on any matter that is within the powers and duties of the public school district board of directors before the consideration of any business or an executive session at a meeting of the public school district board of directors if the member of the public meets certain criteria.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Arkansas Better Chance for School Success Program

ACT 504 (HB1733) expands the Arkansas Better Chance for School Success Program to provide early care and education programs for children from birth through five (5) years of age. The act repeals the requirement that families meet certain income criteria to be eligible for the program and the requirement that the State Board of Education adopt criteria for identifying Arkansas children with the greatest need to participate in program-funded early childhood programs.

EDUCATION - GENERAL

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Childcare Facilities - Anaphylaxis Policies

ACT 865 (HB1817) requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Health and the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, to establish an anaphylaxis policy for childcare facilities and create information materials detailing the anaphylaxis policy to be distributed to childcare facilities and made available on the websites of the departments. The act also requires the Department of Education to forward the anaphylaxis policy to all childcare facilities.

EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVES

Statement of Financial Interest

ACT 592 (SB351) requires an executive director of an education service cooperative to file a statement of financial interest with the county clerk.

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION DIVISION

Arkansas ACCESS Act - School Rating System

ACT 340 (SB246) amends the law related to the school rating system and requires the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop a formula to determine a letter grade for public school districts and education service cooperatives. The act is identical to Act 341 of 2025.

ACT 341 (HB1512) amends the law related to the school rating system and requires the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop a formula to determine a letter grade for public school districts and education service cooperatives. The act is identical to Act 340 of 2025.

Arkansas Children's Educational Freedom Account Program - Account Funds

ACT 920 (SB625) amends the means by which account funds are disbursed by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to a participating student's account, amends the amount a vendor managing the payment system for the Arkansas Children's Educational Freedom Account Program may withhold, amends the conditions under which a student's account under the program may be closed or deposits into the account may be stopped, and repeals the requirement that the division keep certain accounts open for the use of a parent of a former participating student. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 21, 2025.

Arkansas Children's Educational Freedom Account Program - Application Period

ACT 920 (SB625) requires the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to provide a time frame for the submission of applications under the Arkansas Children's Educational Freedom Account Program and requires the division to establish rules for an applicant who meets eligibility requirements for participating in the program and who submits an application outside of the required time frame. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 21, 2025.

Arkansas Council for Military Children - Duties

ACT 501 (HB1545) requires the Arkansas Council for Military Children to assist in the development, publication, and distribution of a digital family guidebook that provides information on the Arkansas Military Child School Transitions Act of 2021. The act also requires the council to survey uniformed services families to assess awareness of the Arkansas Military Child School Transitions Act of 2021, develop and promulgate student arrival and departure surveys of uniformed services families, and post certain information on its website or provide another form of public notice.

Arkansas Council for Military Children - Purple Star School Program - Establishment

ACT 501 (HB1545) requires the Arkansas Council for Military Children to develop the Purple Star School Program to assist children of uniformed services families by addressing the educational, social, and emotional challenges of children of uniformed services families while they transition to a new school.

EDUCATION - GENERAL**ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION DIVISION*****Commission for Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation***

ACT 809 (HB1941) amends the membership composition of the Commission for Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation to allow the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration, the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the President of the Arkansas Development Finance Authority to each appoint a designee to serve in his or her place.

Curriculum - Development of Instruction on Firearm Safety

ACT 229 (HB1117) requires the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation with the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to determine the earliest grade in which it is appropriate for public school students to begin receiving instruction on firearm safety.

Educational Standards and Quality - School Rating System - Dropouts

ACT 916 (HB1642) amends the requirement that school-level graduation rate or rates are factored within the school rating system to prohibit a student from being counted as a dropout for purposes of calculating a school-level five-year graduation rate if the student passes a GED test during the year in which the student dropped out of school.

Employees - Title VI Coordinator - Discrimination and Harassment Complaints

ACT 721 (SB352) requires the Department of Education to designate a Title VI Coordinator to monitor all complaints of discrimination and harassment, including without limitation antisemitic discrimination. The act requires the Title VI Coordinator to establish, maintain, and publicize a formal reporting process for the submission of complaints; investigate complaints; and issue an annual report on discrimination in schools and institutions of higher education to the General Assembly.

Levels of School District Support

ACT 918 (HB1812) amends the requirement that the State Board of Education consider a public school district's graduation rates when determining the level of support to be provided to a public school district to prohibit the board from counting a student as a dropout if the student passes a GED test.

Paid Maternity Leave for Public School Employees - Funding

ACT 904 (HB1017) repeals the requirement that a public school district and an open-enrollment public charter school sign a cost-sharing agreement for paid maternity leave expenses. The act requires the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to pay one hundred percent (100%) of incurred costs for approved paid maternity leave.

Purple Star School Program - Duties

ACT 501 (HB1545) requires the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to provide relevant resources for the orientation and training of public school district military family education coordinators and military family education facilitators, administer the Purple Star School Program, provide administrative and logistical support to the Arkansas Council for Military Children to develop the program, and promulgate rules regarding the program.

Right to Read Act - Literacy Tutoring Grant - Amount Awarded

ACT 195 (SB206) increases the amount of the literacy tutoring grants awarded for supplemental educational services for eligible students under the literacy tutoring grant program to one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) per eligible student per year.

Robotics Competition Grants Program - Creation Required

ACT 472 (SB391) creates the Robotics Competition Grant Program to be administered by the Department of Education. The act awards grants to an eligible team to cover allowable expenses for robotics competitions.

EDUCATION - GENERAL**ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION DIVISION*****School Rating System - Establishment of New Accountability System***

ACT 474 (HB1598) prohibits the Department of Education from assigning to public schools new school ratings under the current school rating system. The act requires the department to establish a new accountability system for public schools and open-enrollment public charter schools and issue to all public schools and open-enrollment public charter schools a letter grade for the 2024-2025 school year using the new accountability system. The act expires on June 30, 2026.

Unified Application System - Establishment Required

ACT 807 (HB1938) requires the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to create a unified application system for required state plans and federal funding applications, including federal title funds, the required parent and family engagement plan, the required health and wellness plan, Enhanced Student Achievement Funding requirements, alternative learning environment funding requirements, and gifted and talented programs.

EMPLOYEES***Criminal Records Checks - Nonlicensed Personnel - Waivers***

ACT 197 (SB228) allows a waiver of the required background check for a nonlicensed staff position to be valid for the duration of the applicant's employment with an educational entity if the applicant does not experience a break in employment after receiving the waiver and does not experience an additional disqualifying conviction.

Employee Rights - Religious Rights

ACT 400 (SB223) clarifies the rights of public school employees to retain religious freedoms on public school district and open-enrollment public charter school property.

Employment and Assignment - Public School Employee Contracts - Unilateral Release

ACT 53 (HB1236) authorizes a public school district employee or an open-enrollment public charter school employee to unilaterally rescind his or her contract for the upcoming school year if he or she submits a signed, written document to his or her public school district superintendent or open-enrollment public charter school director before the end of the business day on May 15. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after February 13, 2025.

Ethical Guidelines and Prohibitions - Definitions

ACT 476 (HB1640) amends the definitions of "administrator" and "public educational entity" as they pertain to ethical guidelines and prohibitions and requires approval by a public school district board of directors before an administrator of the public school district may become the employee, agent, or independent contractor of any party contracting with the public educational entity that the administrator serves.

Insurance - School Worker Defense Program Advisory Board - Repealed

ACT 809 (HB1941) repeals the School Worker Defense Program Advisory Board, which previously existed to have final authority to hear and adjudicate any appeal filed by a school worker for protection against liability under the School Worker Defense Program.

Life and Health Insurance - Public School Employee Retiree

ACT 451 (HB1327) amends the law concerning the eligibility of certain retired employees under the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program, clarifies and streamlines the management options of retiree health benefits, incorporates the new group Medicare Advantage plan option, establishes clear and uniform criteria for retirement benefits eligibility, updates statutory language to reflect multiple retirement plan options, and provides transparent guidelines for all stakeholders.

Paid Maternity Leave - Eligibility Requirements

ACT 904 (HB1017) requires an employee of a public school district or an open-enrollment public charter school to receive up to twelve (12) weeks of paid maternity leave if the employee meets certain criteria.

EDUCATION - GENERAL

EMPLOYEES

Paid Maternity Leave - Total Number of Approved Days

ACT 905 (HB1719) prohibits a holiday or other day during a contract year when academic classes will not be held from counting toward the total number of days a school approves as maternity leave for an individual eligible for paid maternity leave. The act requires a day to qualify for paid maternity leave if it occurs on an unpaid contract day under the individual's current contract.

Public School Employee Health Benefit Advisory Commission - Meetings - Stipend

ACT 143 (SB134) amends the frequency of meetings of the Public School Employee Health Benefit Advisory Commission and the State Employee Health Benefit Advisory Commission and reduces the stipend for members of the commissions who are not active employees.

Public School Employee Health Benefit Advisory Commission - Stipend

ACT 756 (SB508) amends Acts 2025, No. 143, concerning the frequency of payment of a stipend for members of the Public School Employee Health Benefit Advisory Commission and the State Employee Health Benefit Advisory Commission.

State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program

ACT 234 (SB150) amends the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program to allow the Director of the Employee Benefits Division to cooperate with the United States Government in matters pertaining to federally funded programs related to the Employee Benefits Division, including Medicare.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention - Professional Development

ACT 247 (SB226) modifies the requirements for professional development in school districts related to sudden cardiac arrest to include additional persons who are required to complete the training and to also require training to maintain Basic Life Support certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillation.

FUNDING

Academic Facilities Review Board

ACT 809 (HB1941) transfers a public school district's appeal of a determination of the Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation from the Academic Facilities Review Board to the Commission for Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation. The act abolishes the Academic Facilities Review Board.

Course Choice Program - Course Provider

ACT 730 (SB604) amends the per-course amount for a course provider, repeals the requirement that remaining funds for an eligible student under the Course Choice Program be returned to the state or the public school district, and repeals the requirement that a course provider receive only a certain percentage of the course amount if an eligible student does not complete a course.

Foundation Funding - Categorical Funding Amounts

ACT 909 (HB1312) amends the categorical funding amounts under the Public School Funding Act of 2003 for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years by increasing the funding for alternative learning environments, English learners, and enhanced student achievement.

Foundation Funding - Teacher Salary Equalization Funding

ACT 909 (HB1312) maintains the current teacher salary equalization funding amount for the 2025-2026 school year and decreases the teacher salary equalization funding amount for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years.

EDUCATION - GENERAL

FUNDING

Foundation Funding Amounts

ACT 909 (HB1312) amends the per-student foundation funding amounts for the 2025-2026 school year to eight thousand one hundred sixty-two dollars (\$8,162), which includes the minimum employer contribution for participants in the state-sponsored insurance program, and amends the per-student foundation funding amounts for the 2026-2027 school year to eight thousand thirty-seven dollars (\$8,037), which does not include the minimum employer contribution for participants in the state-sponsored insurance program.

Professional Learning Communities - Repealed

ACT 795 (HB1874) repeals the requirement that additional funding provided for professional development be used for the development and administration of professional learning communities. The act repeals the authority of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to partner or contract with a person or entity to provide assistance for the development and implementation of professional learning communities. The act requires additional funding provided for professional development to be used for the implementation of the LEARNS Act and authorizes the division to distribute additional funding through grants to eligible entities.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS - GENERALLY

Arkansas ACCESS Act - Arkansas Direct Admissions Program

ACT 340 (SB246) establishes the Arkansas Direct Admissions Program to provide for provisional admissions criteria and eligibility requirements for participating institutions of higher education and participating public schools, the collection of data, a common application portal, and an outreach plan. The act requires participating public school districts and open-enrollment public charter schools to provide student data to the Division of Higher Education and to inform all students about the program. The act is identical to Act 341 of 2025.

ACT 341 (HB1512) establishes the Arkansas Direct Admissions Program to provide for provisional admissions criteria and eligibility requirements for participating institutions of higher education and participating public schools, the collection of data, a common application portal, and an outreach plan. The act requires participating public school districts and open-enrollment public charter schools to provide student data to the Division of Higher Education and to inform all students about the program. The act is identical to Act 340 of 2025.

Arkansas ACCESS Act - Political Protests

ACT 340 (SB246) prohibits a public school district or open-enrollment public charter school from granting excused absences for political protest purposes unless certain conditions are met and requires annual reporting on the excused or unexcused absences for political protest purposes. The act is identical to Act 341 of 2025.

ACT 341 (HB1512) prohibits a public school district or open-enrollment public charter school from granting excused absences for political protest purposes unless certain conditions are met and requires annual reporting on the excused or unexcused absences for political protest purposes. The act is identical to Act 340 of 2025.

Arkansas ACCESS Act - Purple Star School - Purple Star School District

ACT 340 (SB246) authorizes a public school district or an open-enrollment public charter school to be designated as a Purple Star School or Purple Star School District if it meets certain criteria. The act is identical to Act 341 of 2025.

ACT 341 (HB1512) authorizes a public school district or an open-enrollment public charter school to be designated as a Purple Star School or Purple Star School District if it meets certain criteria. The act is identical to Act 340 of 2025.

EDUCATION - GENERAL**SCHOOL DISTRICTS - GENERALLY*****Attendance - Prohibited School Transfers***

ACT 118 (HB1199) repeals the prohibition against local school district boards of directors granting legal school transfers when a resident or receiving district is under a desegregation-related court order and the requested legal school transfer would violate a desegregation-related court order.

Boards of Directors - Vacancies - Appointment - County Quorum Court

ACT 726 (SB484) provides a process for filling vacancies on a school district board of directors and requires a school district board of directors or county quorum court responsible for filling a vacancy to discuss and act on an appointment to fill a vacancy in an open public meeting and not in an executive session.

Cardiac Emergency Response Plans

ACT 352 (HB1398) requires schools to support, establish, and implement a cardiac emergency response plan beginning in the 2025-2026 school year that integrates nationally recognized elements.

Consolidation, Annexation, and Formation - Establishment of Public Elementary School

ACT 914 (HB1966) provides a process for an incorporated town or a city of the second class and the parents of, legal guardians of, and persons standing in loco parentis to students within an affected school district following a consolidation to file a written appeal for the establishment of a local public elementary school or satellite school associated with the affected school district's existing school campus to be located within the boundaries of the incorporated town or city of the second class. The act requires a local public elementary school established in an affected school district to be part of the receiving school district.

Display of the Ten Commandments

ACT 573 (SB433) requires local school superintendents, local government building administrators, chief administrators of public schools and institutions of higher education, and administrative officials of state agencies to display a durable poster or framed copy of a historical representation of the Ten Commandments and authorizes the institutions and agencies to pay for a copy or poster with public funds or by accepting a private donation.

District Strategic Plans

ACT 807 (HB1938) requires each public school district and open-enrollment public charter school to submit a district strategic plan to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education annually. The act requires an educational service cooperative to review and monitor the implementation of a district strategic plan annually for each public school district and open-enrollment public charter school that is a member of the educational service cooperative. The act repeals the requirement that each public school district submit a three-year enhanced student achievement plan to the division. The act repeals the requirement that the division provide a report on the progress of school districts in meeting enhanced student achievement plan goals to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education.

Districts of Innovation - Repealed

ACT 800 (HB1672) repeals the law that establishes and implements districts of innovation.

Educational Information on Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes

ACT 801 (HB1580) requires a school district to provide certain educational information about Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes if the school district provides educational information on immunizations, infectious diseases, medications, or other school health issues to parents and guardians of students in kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12).

EDUCATION - GENERAL**SCHOOL DISTRICTS - GENERALLY*****Employee Organizations and Professional Associations - Restrictions***

ACT 725 (SB402) prohibits a public school district and an educational service cooperative from requiring or coercing an employee to interact with an employee organization or a professional organization. The act further prohibits a public school district and an educational service cooperative from distributing membership solicitations on behalf of an employee organization or a professional association. The act prohibits a public school district and an educational service cooperative from permitting an employee organization, professional association, or corporation access to or use of the public school district's or educational service cooperative's meetings, events, property, or resources on terms more favorable than those extended to any other employee organization, professional association, or corporation.

Information on School District Websites - Boards of Directors - Meetings

ACT 120 (SB89) amends the information a school district is required to include on its website to include minutes and agendas of regular, emergency, and special meetings of the school district board of directors and the names and email addresses of the members of the school district board of directors.

Isolated District - Detachment from Resulting or Receiving School

ACT 919 (SB619) provides a process for an isolated school to detach from a resulting or receiving district. The act also establishes state funding aid for the first year of operation of an isolated school district, provides for the governance and management of the isolated school district, and requires a local public school district under which a proposed isolated school district currently operates to agree to release ownership of the isolated school's facilities and any accompanying debt on the facilities to the isolated school district.

Library Media Center - Limitation of Certain Materials

ACT 917 (HB1646) requires a library media center located in a public elementary school to store non-age-appropriate sexual content in a locked compartment within a designated area and prohibits the library media center from allowing a student enrolled in the school to view or check out a book or other resource that is stored in the locked compartment unless the library media center receives prior written approval from the student's parent, legal guardian, or person standing in loco parentis to the student.

Military Child School Transitions - Advance Enrollment of Student

ACT 729 (SB559) requires a receiving school to enter academic course requests on behalf of an incoming student under the Arkansas Military Child School Transitions Act of 2021. The act allows a public school to seek a waiver to accommodate a student under the Arkansas Military Child School Transitions Act of 2021.

Military Child School Transitions - Attendance

ACT 501 (HB1545) allows public schools to apply provisions of the Arkansas Military Child School Transitions Act of 2021 to all students who apply for enrollment in public school under the Arkansas Opportunity Public School Choice Act or the Public School Choice Act of 2015. The act requires a public school to provisionally enroll, provide placement for, and enter academic course requests on behalf of an incoming student upon the public school's receipt of notice and an enrollment application from a military family. The act allows a public school to deny a student enrollment under the Arkansas Military Child School Transitions Act of 2021 only if there is a lack of capacity.

Military Child School Transitions - Purple Star School Program

ACT 501 (HB1545) requires each public school with twenty (20) or more children of military families enrolled annually by October 1 to adopt the Purple Star School Program developed by the Arkansas Council for Military Children and to survey arriving and departing uniformed services families to assess the effectiveness of services provided to children of military families.

EDUCATION - GENERAL

SCHOOL DISTRICTS - GENERALLY

Military Child School Transitions - Reporting Requirements

ACT 501 (HB1545) requires a public school to report to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education the enrollment of a student with a parent who is an active duty or reserve component member of the armed forces.

Military Family Education Coordinators

ACT 501 (HB1545) requires a public school district or an open-enrollment public charter school to designate a military family education coordinator to serve as the primary point of contact for children of military families and their parents or legal guardians, to provide to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education the name and contact information of the military family education coordinator, and to post that contact information on the public school district's or open-enrollment public charter school's website.

Personnel - Long-Term Substitute - Duration of Request

ACT 304 (HB1496) allows a public school district to request the use of a long-term substitute for a specified period not to extend beyond the school year for which the request is made.

Provision of Required Information - Religious Rights at Public Schools

ACT 400 (SB223) requires each public school district and open-enrollment public charter school to provide each enrolled student and employee with a copy of the act by electronic means or by placement in a handbook, policy manual, or other resource designed to inform students, employees, or parents about policies, procedures, or rights. The act allows public school districts and open-enrollment public charter schools to have Bibles and other religious texts in public school libraries, classrooms, and other places where books or texts are available to public school students and employees and offer an academic study of the Bible course.

Required Policies - Antibullying - Investigations into Allegations of Bullying

ACT 805 (HB1805) allows a public school or public school district to investigate and dispose of an alleged incident of bullying under certain circumstances to prevent multiple, simultaneous investigations into the same alleged conduct if the facts that support the alleged incident of bullying may also constitute a violation of another state law or rule or a federal law or regulation.

Required Policies - Prohibition Against Antisemitism

ACT 721 (SB352) requires a public school district board of directors to adopt policies prohibiting antisemitism and to place reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on speech to ensure order and protect the rights of all students. The act also requires a public school to formally report an incident or complaint of discrimination or harassment under the act to the Title VI Coordinator designated by the Department of Education.

Sales and Use Tax Exemption - Food Sold in School Cafeteria or Dining Facility

ACT 714 (HB1851) amends the sales tax exemption for food, food ingredients, and prepared food sold in a public, common, high school, or college cafeteria or lunch room to include food sold in a public, common, high school, or college cafeteria or dining facility that contracts for services or management from a for-profit third party. The act is effective on and after October 1, 2025.

EDUCATION - GENERAL**SCHOOL DISTRICTS - GENERALLY*****School Choice - Acceptance or Rejection of Applications***

ACT 732 (SB624) allows a nonresident school that receives an application for transfer from a student to claim a lack of capacity if, on the date the application for public school choice is made, ninety-five percent (95%) or more of the seats at the grade level in which the student would be assigned at the nonresident school are filled. The act prohibits a school district acting under the Public School Choice Act of 2015 from discriminating against a transfer applicant on the basis of the applicant's residential address. The act requires each school district acting under the Public School Choice Act of 2015 to determine for each school within the school district the capacity of each school and each grade level. The act is identical to Act 913 of 2025.

ACT 913 (HB1945) allows a nonresident school that receives an application for transfer from a student to claim a lack of capacity if, on the date the application for public school choice is made, ninety-five percent (95%) or more of the seats at the grade level in which the student would be assigned at the nonresident school are filled. The act prohibits a school district acting under the Public School Choice Act of 2015 from discriminating against a transfer applicant on the basis of the applicant's residential address. The act requires each school district acting under the Public School Choice Act of 2015 to determine for each school within the school district the capacity of each school and each grade level. The act is identical to Act 732 of 2025.

School Property - Audio Recording Device - Required in Certain Locations

ACT 908 (HB1866) requires a public school district or an open-enrollment public charter school to install an audio recording device in each locker room and changing room located on the public school district's or open-enrollment public charter school's property, provides the time period during which an audio recording is to be kept and the requirements for destroying an audio recording, and authorizes a public school district or an open-enrollment public charter school to use available state funding to install an audio recording device.

School Property - Public School Restrooms - Designation Based on Sex - Exceptions

ACT 119 (HB1215) amends the exceptions to the requirement that public school districts and open-enrollment public charter schools designate multiple occupancy restrooms and changing areas based on sex to allow a coach or other athletics personnel member to enter a multiple occupancy restroom or changing area in certain circumstances to address, supervise, or treat student athletes that he or she is overseeing.

School-Level Improvement Plan - Parental Involvement Plan

ACT 807 (HB1938) requires an open-enrollment public charter school to include a parental involvement plan in its annual school-level improvement plan and repeals the requirement for a public school district receiving state support to submit a public school district support plan to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.

SPECIAL EDUCATION***Alternative Learning Environments - Optional***

ACT 911 (HB1903) repeals the requirement that a school district provide one (1) or more alternative learning environments for students who meet the minimum criteria and authorizes a school district to provide one (1) or more alternative learning environments for students who meet the minimum criteria.

EDUCATION - GENERAL
SPECIAL EDUCATION

Arkansas School for the Blind and Arkansas School for the Deaf - Merger

ACT 796 (HB1810) merges the Arkansas School for the Blind and the Arkansas School for the Deaf and makes various changes throughout the Arkansas Code to change the name of each school to the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind, creates the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind, and provides processes concerning the appointment of members to the board, the filling of vacancies on the board, and the removal of members from the board. The act requires the board to keep a record of all board proceedings and adopt formal operating procedures. The act prohibits the school superintendent, school general business manager, and teachers of the school from serving on the board while employed by the school. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind - Employees

ACT 796 (HB1810) repeals the prohibition against paying an Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind employee an additional salary or additional compensation, authorizes the school to make special allowances available to certain employees, increases the compensation that may be awarded to an employee for additional duties, and subjects a teacher employed by the school to teaching license requirements. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind - Funds

ACT 796 (HB1810) repeals approved clothing and travel expenses and funeral expenses for students enrolled in the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind, authorizes the expenditure of general revenue funds to provide transportation services, and requires that any funds resulting from the sale of objects made by students at the school be placed in an appropriated cash fund to be used for student-related school purposes. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind - Housing

ACT 796 (HB1810) prohibits a student or employee from being boarded or lodged during the vacation of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind except in certain circumstances. The act requires the school to make available lodging and boarding for eligible students in accordance with school policy. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind - Students

ACT 796 (HB1810) authorizes the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind to adopt a student attendance policy and an admissions policy and provides for students who are eligible to attend at no cost. The act requires a public school district, an open-enrollment public charter school, an education service cooperative, or an early childhood facility that receives state or federal funds to share information with a parent, legal guardian, or person standing in loco parentis to a student regarding services available from the school. The act also authorizes the board to dismiss a student for disciplinary violations. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind - Superintendent

ACT 796 (HB1810) establishes one (1) Superintendent of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind and provides for the selection, termination, suspension, or discipline of the superintendent. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

EDUCATION - GENERAL

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Curriculum - Social Studies Standards - Beliefs of Founding Fathers

ACT 478 (HB1705) requires the State Board of Education to embed into existing social studies standards and courses beginning with the 2026-2027 school year for grades six through twelve (6-12) information that addresses the founding of the United States, including the founding fathers and their religious and moral beliefs and how their religious and moral beliefs influenced the founding documents of the United States.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Arkansas Adult Diploma Program

ACT 502 (HB1571) amends the definitions related to the Arkansas Adult Diploma Program, amends the payments for approved program providers, requires an approved program provider that has been placed on probationary status to submit an improvement plan, and requires the Department of Education to promulgate rules in consultation with the Office of Skills Development.

STUDENTS - GENERALLY

Arkansas Children's Educational Freedom Account Program - Participation Requirements

ACT 920 (SB625) repeals the specific eligibility requirements for a student to participate in the Arkansas Children's Educational Freedom Account Program for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years and establishes priority for participation in the program for any year in which funds are insufficient to fund all applications for new accounts. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 21, 2025.

Arkansas Children's Educational Freedom Account Program - Qualifying Expenses

ACT 920 (SB625) amends the definition of "qualifying expenses" under the Arkansas Children's Educational Freedom Account Program to include reasonable costs associated with certain co-curricular courses, extracurricular activities, physical education activities, and educational field trips. The act limits the amount of costs associated with transportation that are considered qualifying expenses and prohibits a telephone, cell phone, or other communication device from being reimbursed as a qualifying expense except in certain circumstances. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 21, 2025.

Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and Arts - Online Program - Tuition and Fees

ACT 648 (SB522) requires students who are enrolled in the online programs at the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts to pay the cost of tuition and fees.

Attendance - Enrollment Requirement - Exceptions

ACT 918 (HB1812) excepts a child who has received a GED or its equivalent from the school attendance requirement. The act also requires a student enrolled in a private, parochial, or home school who wishes to enroll in an adult education program or take a GED test to achieve a score as determined by the Adult Education Section on the Test for Adult Basic Education or the GED practice test and, if taking the GED test, obtain permission or approval from the public school district to which he or she is assigned.

Attendance - School Choice - Applications for Transfer - Deadlines

ACT 563 (SB167) clarifies that a student may transfer from his or her resident district or public school to a nonresident district or another public school within his or her resident school district under certain conditions under the Arkansas Opportunity Public School Choice Act and amends the process for the transfer and the deadlines for each step of the process.

Course Credit Recovery Program - Limitation on Credits Obtained

ACT 910 (HB1484) limits the number of credits a student participating in a course credit recovery program to obtain credit toward high school graduation requirements may receive and exempts certain students from the credit limit.

Discipline - Definition of "Bullying"

ACT 805 (HB1805) amends the definition of "bullying" as it pertains to school antibullying policies.

EDUCATION - GENERAL**STUDENTS - GENERALLY*****Discipline - Removal by Teacher - Violent or Abusive Behavior***

ACT 565 (HB1062) requires a public school principal or his or her designee to hold a conference for a student each time a teacher removes the student from class and requires a behavioral threat assessment to be conducted if the conference is held because the student was removed from a teacher's class due to violent behavior. The act requires a student who is removed from a class due to violent or abusive behavior against a teacher or another student to be placed in an appropriate interim learning environment for the duration of the review and conference or for the remainder of the year for the third removal and prohibits the student from being placed in a class with the teacher or student against whom the violent or abusive behavior was directed. The act requires a student with a disability to be placed in a temporary appropriate interim learning environment within the public school district for no more than ten (10) school days during a manifestation determination review if the violent or abusive behavior for which a student is removed from class is determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability.

Discipline - Use of Personal Electronic Devices

ACT 122 (SB142) requires each public school district and open-enrollment public charter school to establish a policy and exemptions concerning the possession and use by a student of a personal electronic device during the school day and to submit their policies and exemptions to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education for review and approval. The act also requires a public school district or an open-enrollment public charter school to be cited for a violation of the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts if the public school district or open-enrollment public charter school fails to adopt or enforce a personal electronic device policy.

Epinephrine - Types Allowed for Use

ACT 245 (HB1166) adds epinephrine nasal spray to the types of epinephrine allowed for use in elementary and secondary schools.

Excused Absences - Children of Fallen Service Members or Fallen First Responders

ACT 794 (HB1986) requires a public school to excuse the absence of a student for the time during which he or she is absent from school due to a mental health concern or to attend an event from a sponsoring organization that provides support to families of fallen service members or first responders or provides support for traumatic loss, grief, or resiliency if the student is a child of a fallen service member or a child of a fallen first responder unless the absence occurs on a date when standardized testing is administered.

Health - Free and Reduced-Price Meals - School Breakfast

ACT 123 (SB59) requires that a public school student who is not a qualifying student and does not receive a free breakfast through any local, state, or federal program be provided one (1) breakfast at no cost during each school day upon his or her request without consideration of his or her eligibility for a federally funded free or reduced-price meal and requires the Department of Education to provide funds to cover the cost if necessary. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after February 20, 2025.

Homeschooled Students - Participation in Interscholastic Activities

ACT 475 (HB1633) provides the eligibility requirements for a homeschooled student to participate in an athletic activity at a public school other than his or her resident public school or at a private school. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 8, 2025.

Homeschooled Students - Participation in Interscholastic Activities - Requirements

ACT 728 (SB547) repeals the requirement that a homeschooled student live within twenty-five (25) miles of a private school to participate in an interscholastic activity at the private school.

EDUCATION - GENERAL

STUDENTS - GENERALLY

Interscholastic Activities - Participation of Private School Students at Public Schools

ACT 644 (SB303) allows a resident school district or an open-enrollment public charter school to permit a private school student to pursue participation in an interscholastic activity at the school if the private school in which the student is enrolled does not have the interscholastic activity approved by the Arkansas Activities Association and the student enrolls in a nonacademic class period at the public school. The act also establishes the requirements for the public school to receive a portion of the state foundation funding amount for the duration of the private school student's enrollment in the public school.

Religious Rights

ACT 400 (SB223) clarifies the rights of public school students to retain religious freedoms on public school district and open-enrollment public charter school property.

School Choice - Arkansas Opportunity Public School Choice Act - Transfers

ACT 732 (SB624) authorizes a student to transfer from his or her resident district or public school to a nonresident school district or another public school within his or her resident school district under certain conditions. The act is identical to Act 913 of 2025.

ACT 913 (HB1945) authorizes a student to transfer from his or her resident district or public school to a nonresident school district or another public school within his or her resident school district under certain conditions. The act is identical to Act 732 of 2025.

School Choice - Public School Choice Act of 2015 - Transfers

ACT 732 (SB624) authorizes a student to transfer to a nonresident school district or another public school within his or her resident school district. The act is identical to Act 913 of 2025.

ACT 913 (HB1945) authorizes a student to transfer to a nonresident school district or another public school within his or her resident school district. The act is identical to Act 732 of 2025.

School Transfers - Participation in Athletic Activity

ACT 475 (HB1633) provides the requirements for a student who transfers to another public school, a nonresident school district, or a nonpublic school to be eligible to participate in an athletic activity at the other public school, nonresident school district, or nonpublic school. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 8, 2025.

Student Athlete Concussion - Chiropractor Healthcare Provider

ACT 645 (SB467) amends the definition of "healthcare provider" as created by Acts 2025, No. 266, to include chiropractors or chiropractic physicians in relation to the requirement for student athlete concussion education.

Student Athlete Concussion - Healthcare Provider Definition

ACT 266 (HB1213) defines the term "healthcare provider" in relation to the requirement for student athlete concussion education and protocols and requires the Department of Health to provide an updated healthcare provider list to the Arkansas Activities Association.

Student Restraints - Positive Behavioral Support

ACT 804 (HB1793) repeals the requirement that public school personnel be trained in evidence-based positive behavioral support and requires a school district to determine how to effectively discipline students based on evidence-based behavioral intervention strategies and the needs of its student population and school personnel.

Transfer to a Nonpublic School - Participation in an Athletic Activity

ACT 475 (HB1633) provides the requirements for a student who transfers to and enrolls in a nonpublic school to be eligible to participate in an athletic activity at the nonpublic school. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 8, 2025.

EDUCATION - GENERAL

STUDENTS - GENERALLY

Universal ACT Assessment - Additional Tests Available

ACT 724 (SB183) expands the types of assessments students in grades nine through twelve (9-12) may take, allows students in grades nine through twelve (9-12) to take an approved assessment by using funding provided to public school districts and open-enrollment public charter schools, and requires each public school district and open-enrollment public charter school to allow a student to choose to take certain other tests and assessments.

Virtual School - Administration of Assessments - Requirements

ACT 646 (SB470) amends the requirements for an adult approved to oversee the administration of a statewide student assessment to students in a virtual setting to specify requirements based on the grade level of the student taking the assessment.

TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind

ACT 598 (HB1344) updates the name of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind where it appeared separately as the "Arkansas School for the Blind" or the "Arkansas School for the Deaf" in the retirement laws. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 14, 2025.

Early Childhood Workers

ACT 587 (SB148) allows an early childhood worker who works at a licensed childcare facility that provides teaching, early childhood education, or supervision for a child enrolled in a licensed childcare facility to participate in the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System.

TEACHERS - GENERALLY

Arkansas ACCESS Act - Licensure Waiver - Undue Hardship

ACT 340 (SB246) repeals the authorization to apply to the State Board of Education for a waiver due to an undue hardship on a school district related to licensure requirements for certain teachers. The act is identical to Act 341 of 2025.

ACT 341 (HB1512) repeals the authorization to apply to the State Board of Education for a waiver due to an undue hardship on a school district related to licensure requirements for certain teachers. The act is identical to Act 340 of 2025.

Arkansas ACCESS Act - Teacher Programs

ACT 340 (SB246) authorizes an award for dual licensure of a teacher under the Teacher Opportunity Program in some circumstances and repeals the Dual Licensure Incentive Program, which provided funding to certain teachers to obtain licensure, and the Arkansas Traveling Teacher Program, which authorized agreements for traveling teachers. The act is identical to Act 341 of 2025.

ACT 341 (HB1512) authorizes an award for dual licensure of a teacher under the Teacher Opportunity Program in some circumstances and repeals the Dual Licensure Incentive Program, which provided funding to certain teachers to obtain licensure, and the Arkansas Traveling Teacher Program, which authorized agreements for traveling teachers. The act is identical to Act 340 of 2025.

Arkansas Teacher of the Year - Eligibility - Open-Enrollment Public Charter School

ACT 303 (HB1477) allows open-enrollment public charter school governing bodies to submit applicants for Arkansas Teacher of the Year and amends the deadline for the submission of applicants for Arkansas Teacher of the Year.

Income Tax Deduction for Classroom Investments - Increase

ACT 878 (HB1732) increases the amount of the income tax deduction allowed for a teacher's classroom investments to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per taxpayer. The act is effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

EDUCATION - GENERAL**TEACHERS - GENERALLY*****Library Media Center - Limitation of Certain Materials - Failure to Comply***

ACT 917 (HB1646) requires a public school principal and a public school district superintendent to document an allegation that an individual knowingly failed to comply with the requirement that non-age-appropriate sexual content be stored in a locked compartment within a designated area or the prohibition against an individual allowing a student enrolled in kindergarten through grade five (K-5) to view or check out a book or other resource that concerns non-age-appropriate sexual content without receiving prior written approval from the student's parent, legal guardian, or person standing in loco parentis to the student. The act provides for disciplinary actions and other penalties that may be imposed on an individual who is found to have knowingly failed to comply with the requirements of the act.

Licensure - Exceptions - Plans

ACT 304 (HB1496) repeals the existing exceptions to the requirement that a teacher be assigned to teach a grade level or a subject for which he or she is licensed and creates an exception for teachers who are on an approved licensure plan for a period not to exceed three (3) years, which may be extended for up to two (2) additional years upon request and due to an extenuating circumstance.

Licensure - National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification Funding

ACT 808 (HB1939) prohibits a person from being qualified to receive funds for obtaining National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification if the person has not satisfied the requirements by July 1, 2025.

Licensure - Professional Licensure Standards Board

ACT 809 (HB1941) prohibits a member of the Professional Licensure Standards Board from serving more than three (3) terms on the board, amends the actions the board is required to take concerning ethical violations, requires the ethics subcommittee of the board to enforce the code of ethics for teachers, and repeals the authorization of the State Board of Education to make an informal disposition of an ethical violation. The act authorizes an educator to appeal the findings and sanctions of the board to the State Board of Education.

Licensure - Right to Read Act - Literacy Tutoring Grant

ACT 195 (SB206) increases the amount of the literacy tutoring grants awarded for supplemental educational services for eligible students under the literacy tutoring grant program to one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) per eligible student per year.

Merit Teacher Incentive Fund Program - Eligibility for Award - Annual Rating

ACT 808 (HB1939) requires a public school district to perform an annual rating of a teacher at the end of each school year that is based on observations and that includes components within an evaluation framework as reported in the state-approved evaluation system.

Professional Development

ACT 304 (HB1496) repeals the requirement that teachers participate in continuing education and professional development based on the teacher's evaluation and professional growth plan to renew a teaching license. The act also repeals the requirement that professional development credit be given for certain college credits earned for a graduate-level course.

Prohibition of Discrimination and Preferential Treatment in Hiring

ACT 116 (SB3) prohibits discrimination and preferential treatment by public entities on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin and repeals laws related to diversity, equity, and affirmative action. The act also requires state agencies to report to the Legislative Council concerning their compliance with the act.

Teacher Excellence and Support System - Novice Teacher Mentoring - Exceptions

ACT 135 (HB1189) exempts a novice teacher who has completed a Division of Elementary and Secondary Education-approved year-long residency from being required to participate in novice teacher mentoring under the Teacher Excellence and Support System.

EDUCATION - GENERAL

TEACHERS - GENERALLY

Teacher Excellence and Support System - Summative Evaluations

ACT 808 (HB1939) authorizes summative evaluations of teachers under the Teacher Excellence and Support System to be done in writing or digitally. The act requires a public school to perform an annual rating that satisfies the requirements of the Merit Teacher Incentive Fund Program in a year in which the public school does not perform a summative evaluation of teachers.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS - EDUCATION

Title 6

ACT 165 (SB172) makes technical corrections recommended by the Arkansas Code Revision Commission to Title 6 of the Arkansas Code.

TRANSPORTATION

Enhanced Transportation Funding

ACT 722 (SB425) amends the enhanced transportation funding provided to certain public school districts and open-enrollment public charter schools by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 17, 2025.

EDUCATION - HIGHER

CAREER EDUCATION

Arkansas Industry Training Program - Reporting Requirement - Repealed

ACT 446 (SB378) repeals the requirement that the Arkansas Economic Development Commission submit a quarterly report concerning the training activities of the Arkansas Industry Training Program.

Secondary Career and Technical Centers - Access of Military Forces Recruiters - Required

ACT 355 (HB1689) requires a state-supported career academy, precollege academy, secondary career center, or technical center to permit access to official recruiting representatives of the military forces to enable those representatives to inform students of educational and career opportunities available in the military forces.

Vocational and Technical Training - State Apprenticeship Agency

ACT 695 (SB390) repeals the law concerning apprenticeship training programs, creates the State Apprenticeship Agency within the Office of Skills Development to serve as the state registration agency for apprenticeship programs, and authorizes the agency to resolve disputes between parties to an apprenticeship agreement. The act also establishes the Arkansas Apprenticeship Council and abolishes the Arkansas Apprenticeship Coordination Steering Committee.

DEGREES

Arkansas ACCESS Act - Associate Degree - Reverse Transfer Agreements

ACT 340 (SB246) authorizes a reverse transfer agreement for a student seeking an associate degree who transferred to a four-year state-supported institution of higher education and addresses the awarding of the associate degree upon the student meeting the associate degree requirements. The act is identical to Act 341 of 2025.

ACT 341 (HB1512) authorizes a reverse transfer agreement for a student seeking an associate degree who transferred to a four-year state-supported institution of higher education and addresses the awarding of the associate degree upon the student meeting the associate degree requirements. The act is identical to Act 340 of 2025.

Required Core Curriculum

ACT 566 (HB1696) sets a core curriculum at state-supported institutions of higher education.

EDUCATION - HIGHER EMPLOYEES

Arkansas ACCESS Act - Faculty Performance Reviews

ACT 340 (SB246) amends the law related to faculty performance reviews at state-supported institutions of higher education to authorize a review process that results in specific corrective actions and to require reporting by state-supported institutions of higher education related to tenured positions and faculty. The act authorizes state-supported institutions of higher education to require immediate reviews of faculty members in certain circumstances. The act is identical to Act 341 of 2025.

ACT 341 (HB1512) amends the law related to faculty performance reviews at state-supported institutions of higher education to authorize a review process that results in specific corrective actions and to require reporting by state-supported institutions of higher education related to tenured positions and faculty. The act authorizes state-supported institutions of higher education to require immediate reviews of faculty members in certain circumstances. The act is identical to Act 340 of 2025.

Classified and Unclassified Employees

ACT 402 (SB417) removes the term "unclassified" from the law related to overtime, incentives, and differentials for direct and indirect patient care personnel at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. The act also removes classified employees of state-supported institutions of higher education from the law related to financial incentives to decrease use of sick leave.

Early Retirement for Higher Education Staff

ACT 249 (HB1326) removes the requirement that faculty of institutions of higher education be tenured to negotiate special allowances for early retirement and broadens the ability of presidents and chancellors to negotiate special allowances for early retirement to staff members who are not considered faculty. The act removes the requirement that the amount of special allowances negotiated for early retirement not exceed a certain amount. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after March 6, 2025.

HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

Arkansas ACCESS Act - Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board

ACT 340 (SB246) abolishes the State Board of Private Career Education and places the authority over programs of study related to private resident and correspondence schools with the Division of Higher Education and authority over the resolution of disputes with the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The act also authorizes the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to promulgate rules related to the technical and community college system. The act is identical to Act 341 of 2025.

ACT 341 (HB1512) abolishes the State Board of Private Career Education and places the authority over programs of study related to private resident and correspondence schools with the Division of Higher Education and authority over the resolution of disputes with the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The act also authorizes the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to promulgate rules related to the technical and community college system. The act is identical to Act 340 of 2025.

Arkansas ACCESS Act - Membership - Powers and Duties

ACT 340 (SB246) amends the membership and the powers and duties of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The act is identical to Act 341 of 2025.

ACT 341 (HB1512) amends the membership and the powers and duties of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The act is identical to Act 340 of 2025.

EDUCATION - HIGHER

HIGHER EDUCATION DIVISION

Arkansas Rural Preceptorship Program - Establishment

ACT 727 (SB504) establishes the Arkansas Rural Preceptorship Program and authorizes the Division of Higher Education to administer the program to provide funding to medical students from specific eligible institutions to be placed in a preceptorship in a participating healthcare facility in a rural community.

INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Access of Military Forces Recruiters - Required

ACT 355 (HB1689) requires a state-supported institution of higher education to permit access to official recruiting representatives of the military forces to enable those representatives to inform students of educational and career opportunities available in the military forces.

Activities Related to Foreign Adversaries

ACT 473 (HB1561) requires the disclosure of past gifts, the approval for future gifts, the disclosure of past contracts, and the approval of future contracts over a certain amount from foreign adversaries and sets up an enforcement procedure related to foreign gifts. The act prohibits certain cultural exchange agreements with a foreign adversary or an entity controlled by a foreign adversary, places screening requirements for higher education hiring and research, requires the establishment of a foreign adversary travel approval and monitoring program, and prohibits certain research partnerships with foreign instrumentalities. The act prohibits willful misappropriations of a trade secret with the intent to benefit a foreign government, a foreign agent, or a foreign instrumentality and provides penalties for violations related to intellectual property. The act also establishes requirements related to foreign adversary software and software platforms hosted, operated, or owned by foreign adversary countries.

Arkansas ACCESS Act - Arkansas Direct Admissions Program

ACT 340 (SB246) establishes the Arkansas Direct Admissions Program to provide for provisional admissions criteria and eligibility requirements for participating institutions of higher education and participating public schools, the collection of data, a common application portal, and an outreach plan. The act requires participating public school districts and open-enrollment public charter schools to provide student data to the Division of Higher Education and to inform all students about the program. The act is identical to Act 341 of 2025.

ACT 341 (HB1512) establishes the Arkansas Direct Admissions Program to provide for provisional admissions criteria and eligibility requirements for participating institutions of higher education and participating public schools, the collection of data, a common application portal, and an outreach plan. The act requires participating public school districts and open-enrollment public charter schools to provide student data to the Division of Higher Education and to inform all students about the program. The act is identical to Act 340 of 2025.

Arkansas ACCESS Act - Classic Learning Test

ACT 340 (SB246) requires state-supported institutions of higher education to accept the Classic Learning Test (CLT) examination to the same extent as the ACT and SAT for admissions and state-funded financial assistance eligibility. The act is identical to Act 341 of 2025.

ACT 341 (HB1512) requires state-supported institutions of higher education to accept the Classic Learning Test (CLT) examination to the same extent as the ACT and SAT for admissions and state-funded financial assistance eligibility. The act is identical to Act 340 of 2025.

EDUCATION - HIGHER**INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION*****Arkansas ACCESS Act - Political Protests***

ACT 340 (SB246) prohibits a state-supported institution of higher education from granting excused absences for political protest, social or public policy advocacy, or influencing legislation or policymaking purposes unless certain conditions are met. The act also prohibits standards, curriculum, professional development, and rules authorizing student walkouts for these purposes and addresses the liability of students who negligently or intentionally cause damage to the state-supported institution of higher education's property while engaging in these activities. The act is identical to Act 341 of 2025.

ACT 341 (HB1512) prohibits a state-supported institution of higher education from granting excused absences for political protest, social or public policy advocacy, or influencing legislation or policymaking purposes unless certain conditions are met. The act also prohibits standards, curriculum, professional development, and rules authorizing student walkouts for these purposes and addresses the liability of students who negligently or intentionally cause damage to the state-supported institution of higher education's property while engaging in these activities. The act is identical to Act 340 of 2025.

Arkansas ACCESS Act - Prohibited Actions

ACT 340 (SB246) prohibits state-supported institutions of higher education from taking certain actions in violation of federal discrimination laws and prohibits a state-supported institution of higher education from taking certain actions related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. The act provides that a state-supported institution of higher education that fails to demonstrate compliance is not eligible for state funding under the state higher education funding formula until demonstrating compliance for at least one (1) fiscal year following the fiscal year in which the institution became ineligible. The act is identical to Act 341 of 2025.

ACT 341 (HB1512) prohibits state-supported institutions of higher education from taking certain actions in violation of federal discrimination laws and prohibits a state-supported institution of higher education from taking certain actions related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. The act provides that a state-supported institution of higher education that fails to demonstrate compliance is not eligible for state funding under the state higher education funding formula until demonstrating compliance for at least one (1) fiscal year following the fiscal year in which the institution became ineligible. The act is identical to Act 340 of 2025.

Arkansas ACCESS Act - Purple Star Campus

ACT 340 (SB246) authorizes a state-supported institution of higher education to be designated as a Purple Star Campus if it meets certain criteria. The act is identical to Act 341 of 2025.

ACT 341 (HB1512) authorizes a state-supported institution of higher education to be designated as a Purple Star Campus if it meets certain criteria. The act is identical to Act 340 of 2025.

Boards of Trustees - Authority

ACT 564 (SB545) authorizes the boards of trustees of certain institutions of higher education to take certain actions related to tangible or intangible property deemed proper or suitable for the school and to pledge revenues other than tax revenues to the payment of negotiable interest-bearing notes or bonds. The act also amends the authority of boards of trustees of institutions of higher education related to rents, tolls, and fees.

Consideration of Factors in Investments

ACT 308 (HB1307) prohibits an institution of higher education from considering certain factors in its selection of investments or service providers or in the voting of shares by the institutional fund.

Contract Amendments - Summary to Legislative Council - Repealed

ACT 402 (SB417) repeals the requirement for institutions of higher education to submit a summary of contract amendments to Legislative Council.

EDUCATION - HIGHER

INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Core Curriculum - Requirements

ACT 566 (HB1696) sets a core curriculum at state-supported institutions of higher education.

Display of the Ten Commandments

ACT 573 (SB433) requires local school superintendents, local government building administrators, chief administrators of public schools and institutions of higher education, and administrative officials of state agencies to display a durable poster or framed copy of a historical representation of the Ten Commandments and authorizes the institutions and agencies to pay for a copy or poster with public funds or by accepting a private donation.

Higher Education Expenditure Restriction Act - New or Additional Positions

ACT 477 (HB1697) increases the number of new or additional positions at Arkansas State University, the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Information on Career Counseling and Career-Related Resources

ACT 354 (HB1601) requires the Division of Higher Education and state-supported institutions of higher education to maintain career counseling and other career-related resources available to students on their websites. The act also requires a state-supported institution of higher education to take appropriate steps to inform students of career counseling and career-related resources and to make the career counseling and other career-related services available to a student who has not graduated for up to six (6) months after the student is no longer enrolled.

Merger - University of Arkansas and East Arkansas Community College

ACT 25 (SB46) reflects a merger between the University of Arkansas and East Arkansas Community College by changing the name of East Arkansas Community College to the University of Arkansas East Arkansas Community College. The act also repeals portions of the law related to a previous merger involving East Arkansas Community College.

Northwest Technical Institute - President

ACT 10 (HB1133) authorizes Northwest Technical Institute to appoint a president with an industry background. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after January 30, 2025.

Programs - Reporting

ACT 402 (SB417) repeals the requirement for and references to affirmative action programs at institutions of higher education and repeals the law related to the duplication of services at institutions of higher education. The act amends the contents of the Comprehensive Arkansas Higher Education Annual Report and repeals the law concerning the Arkansas Energy Summary and Report.

Prohibition of Discrimination and Preferential Treatment

ACT 116 (SB3) prohibits discrimination and preferential treatment by public entities on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin and repeals laws related to diversity, equity, and affirmative action. The act also requires state agencies to report to the Legislative Council concerning their compliance with the act.

Prohibition on Purchasing Certain Electric Vehicles and Components

ACT 924 (HB1683) prohibits a governmental entity from procuring an electric vehicle or a component of an electric vehicle unless the manufacturer certifies that no entity involved in the production of the electric vehicle or the component of an electric vehicle uses forced labor. The act also provides for remedies against a manufacturer that knowingly provides false or misleading information and a governmental entity or an employee of a governmental entity that knowingly violates the prohibition.

EDUCATION - HIGHER

INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Prohibitions - Participation with Certain Prohibited Foreign Parties

ACT 351 (SB317) prohibits an institution of higher education from participating in certain activities with a prohibited foreign party, including conducting classified research, conducting agricultural research under a contract, selling agricultural products, engaging in the production of agricultural products, or entering into a nondisclosure agreement.

Property

ACT 402 (SB417) amends the law related to construction project exemptions at certain state-supported institutions of higher education and the law concerning the required review by the Building Authority Division of transfer and lease agreements. The act provides that the regulation and supervision of leasing responsibilities by the division does not apply to an institution of higher education. The act also authorizes a designee to execute a deed conveying lands sold by the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas.

Required Policies - Prohibition Against Antisemitism

ACT 721 (SB352) requires an institution of higher education to treat harassment or discrimination that is motivated by or includes antisemitic intent by a student or an employee or that is a result of the institution's policies or programs in the same manner as any other form of discrimination prohibited by state or federal law. The act requires each institution of higher education to adopt policies prohibiting antisemitism and requires each institution of higher education to place reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on speech to ensure order and protect the rights of all students. The act also requires each institution of higher education to formally report an incident or complaint of discrimination or harassment under the act to the Title VI Coordinator designated by the Department of Education.

Sales and Use Tax Exemption - Food Sold in College Cafeteria or Dining Facility

ACT 714 (HB1851) amends the sales tax exemption for food, food ingredients, and prepared food sold in a public, common, high school, or college cafeteria or lunch room to include food sold in a public, common, high school, or college cafeteria or dining facility that contracts for services or management from a for-profit third party. The act is effective on and after October 1, 2025.

Sports Raffles

ACT 305 (HB1634) authorizes an institution of higher education or an affiliated nonprofit organization to conduct a raffle and utilize receipts from the raffle for certain purposes. The act prohibits the use of receipts from a raffle to compensate a person who works for or is affiliated with the organization conducting the raffle and prohibits a person under eighteen (18) years of age from purchasing a raffle ticket. The act provides an exception for raffles under the Arkansas Sports Raffle Act related to prohibited practices on the premises of holders of certain alcoholic beverage permits. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after March 18, 2025.

State-Supported Institutions - Prohibitions Related to Foreign Entities

ACT 937 (HB1352) withholds funding for state-supported institutions of higher education that have a Confucius Institute or similar institute, requires a state-supported institution of higher education to annually certify that the institution does not have a prohibited institute, and requires an institution of higher education to abolish an existing institute by December 31, 2025. The act also prohibits a state-supported institution of higher education from investing in a Chinese company or a restricted investment product.

EDUCATION - HIGHER

INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Students with Disabilities - Policy - Accommodations

ACT 907 (HB1766) requires an institution of higher education to adopt a policy addressing documentation considered in evaluating whether a student is a student with a disability and to disseminate information regarding the policy to certain individuals and at certain times. The act also requires an institution of higher education to engage in an interactive process to document the accommodation needs of a student with a disability and to establish a reasonable accommodation for the student. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.

Students with Disabilities - Reporting Requirements

ACT 906 (HB1728) requires certain institutions of higher education to report annually to the Division of Higher Education on certain information regarding the number of students with disabilities at the institution of higher education who are registered to receive accommodations and requires the division to include that information in the Comprehensive Arkansas Higher Education Annual Report.

Website Domain Extensions

ACT 929 (HB1951) requires an institution of higher education to use a ".edu" website domain extension unless certain circumstances exist. The act is effective on and after June 1, 2026.

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

Medical Students - Arkansas Rural Preceptorship Program

ACT 727 (SB504) establishes the Arkansas Rural Preceptorship Program and authorizes the Division of Higher Education to administer the program to provide funding to medical students from specific eligible institutions to be placed in a preceptorship in a participating healthcare facility in a rural community.

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, AND FINANCIAL AID

Arkansas ACCESS Act - ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program

ACT 340 (SB246) creates the ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program to award scholarships to eligible students enrolled in a concurrent credit course at an approved institution of higher education. The act repeals the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship and replaces references with the ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship. The act is identical to Act 341 of 2025.

ACT 341 (HB1512) creates the ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program to award scholarships to eligible students enrolled in a concurrent credit course at an approved institution of higher education. The act repeals the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship and replaces references with the ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship. The act is identical to Act 340 of 2025.

Arkansas ACCESS Act - Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program

ACT 340 (SB246) revises the additional eligibility requirements for traditional students under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, increases the initial scholarship amount, and repeals the authorization for an applicant to elect for earned semester credit hours to be only those earned after graduating from high school or obtaining a high school equivalency diploma. The act is identical to Act 341 of 2025.

ACT 341 (HB1512) revises the additional eligibility requirements for traditional students under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, increases the initial scholarship amount, and repeals the authorization for an applicant to elect for earned semester credit hours to be only those earned after graduating from high school or obtaining a high school equivalency diploma. The act is identical to Act 340 of 2025.

EDUCATION - HIGHER**SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, AND FINANCIAL AID*****Arkansas ACCESS Act - Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program***

ACT 340 (SB246) amends the Arkansas Academic Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program to define "academic year," include certain public or private vocational-technical schools in the definition of "approved institution of higher education," and specify that "certificate program" is determined by the Division of Higher Education and includes certain specific industries. The act amends the distribution and amount of awards, requires collaboration with the Office of Skills Development regarding criteria for certain students, and requires annual reporting by approved institutions of higher education on certain data to the Division of Higher Education and the Office of Skills Development. The act is identical to Act 341 of 2025.

ACT 341 (HB1512) amends the Arkansas Academic Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program to define "academic year," include certain public or private vocational-technical schools in the definition of "approved institution of higher education," and specify that "certificate program" is determined by the Division of Higher Education and includes certain specific industries. The act amends the distribution and amount of awards, requires collaboration with the Office of Skills Development regarding criteria for certain students, and requires annual reporting by approved institutions of higher education on certain data to the Division of Higher Education and the Office of Skills Development. The act is identical to Act 340 of 2025.

Arkansas ACCESS Act - Changes to Various Scholarship and Grant Programs

ACT 340 (SB246) amends the Arkansas Governor's Scholars Program to revise the approved institutions, eligible students, selection process, and funding under the program. The act repeals the law related to the scholarship program for children of law enforcement officers and other state employees and establishes the Arkansas Heroes Scholarship Act that provides scholarships to certain individuals and family members. The act changes continuing eligibility criteria and the distribution of grants under the Arkansas Future Grant Program and amends the requirements for eligible postsecondary institutions and scholarships under the Arkansas Teacher Academy Scholarship Program. The act establishes the Governor's Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program for eligible students with disabilities admitted to a qualifying program at a state-supported institution of higher education. The act is identical to Act 341 of 2025.

ACT 341 (HB1512) amends the Arkansas Governor's Scholars Program to revise the approved institutions, eligible students, selection process, and funding under the program. The act repeals the law related to the scholarship program for children of law enforcement officers and other state employees and establishes the Arkansas Heroes Scholarship Act that provides scholarships to certain individuals and family members. The act changes continuing eligibility criteria and the distribution of grants under the Arkansas Future Grant Program and amends the requirements for eligible postsecondary institutions and scholarships under the Arkansas Teacher Academy Scholarship Program. The act establishes the Governor's Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program for eligible students with disabilities admitted to a qualifying program at a state-supported institution of higher education. The act is identical to Act 340 of 2025.

Arkansas Brighter Future Fund Plan

ACT 315 (HB1527) allows a guardian of the estate to invest in an Arkansas Brighter Future Fund Plan on behalf of his or her ward.

Arkansas Brighter Future Fund Plan Accounts - Contributions by Nonprofits

ACT 615 (SB422) authorizes nonprofit organizations to contribute to a new or existing Arkansas Brighter Future Fund Plan account and requires the Treasurer of State to facilitate contributions by a nonprofit organization.

EDUCATION - HIGHER

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, AND FINANCIAL AID

Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program - Inclusion of Ninth Grade

ACT 353 (HB1451) amends the definition of "student" under the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program to include students in grade nine (9) and authorizes the Division of Higher Education to distribute up to two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) in total scholarships to students in grade nine (9).

Behavioral Health Loan Forgiveness Program

ACT 1022 (SB554) creates the Behavioral Health Loan Forgiveness Program to provide funds for education loan forgiveness to mental health professionals serving in behaviorally underserved communities in this state and establishes the Arkansas Behavioral Health Professional Student Loan Repayment Fund to provide funds for the program.

Graduate Medical Education Residency Expansion Board - Implementation Grants

ACT 196 (HB1384) amends the law concerning the Graduate Medical Education Residency Expansion Board to authorize implementation grants, provide criteria to be included in the board's rules for awarding grants, specify information that is required in an entity's plan for receiving accreditation submitted when applying for an implementation grant, and repeal the authorization for grants for additional years of residency. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after February 27, 2025.

Tax-Free Contributions from Tax-Deferred Tuition Savings Program to Roth IRA

ACT 802 (HB1085) adopts federal law to provide an income tax exemption for rollover contributions from a tax-deferred tuition savings program, including an Arkansas Brighter Future Fund Plan, to a Roth IRA. The act is effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024.

STUDENTS

Admissions - University of Arkansas College of Medicine

ACT 806 (HB1833) amends the law concerning admissions at the University of Arkansas College of Medicine and requires certain allocations of positions for each congressional district, for applicants who are Arkansas residents, and for applicants at large.

Career Counseling and Career-Related Resources

ACT 354 (HB1601) requires the Division of Higher Education and state-supported institutions of higher education to maintain career counseling and other career-related resources available to students on their websites. The act also requires a state-supported institution of higher education to take appropriate steps to inform students of career counseling and career-related resources and to make the career counseling and other career-related services available to a student who has not graduated for up to six (6) months after the student is no longer enrolled.

Due Process - Representation Right - Time Frame for Appeals

ACT 731 (SB618) requires an institution of higher education to inform a student who is the subject of an investigation or disciplinary proceeding of his or her right to representation and reduces the time frame for appeals.

EDUCATION - HIGHER**STUDENTS*****Rights of Students - Student-Athletes***

ACT 839 (HB1917) authorizes an institution of higher education to compensate a student-athlete for the commercial use of his or her publicity rights and to enter into an exclusive or nonexclusive license agreement with a student-athlete for the commercial use of his or her publicity rights. The act authorizes an institution of higher education to revoke or rescind an agreement or commitment to provide compensation or benefits in certain instances and provides that the institution of higher education is not liable for damages as a consequence of the revocation or rescission of an agreement. The act exempts income received by a student-athlete from an institution of higher education as compensation for the use of his or her name, image, or likeness or as a percentage of institutional athletic revenue from state income tax and provides that personal or financial information of a student-athlete contained in an agreement under the act is confidential and not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act of 1967. The act requires written authorization from the student-athlete's committed or enrolled institution of higher education for certain actions related to conflicts and amends the law related to representation, the employment status of student-athletes, the scope of the Arkansas Student-Athlete Publicity Rights Act, liability and civil remedies, and limits on funding. The section of the act that creates an income tax exemption is effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

TUITION AND FUNDING***Arkansas ACCESS Act - Admissions and State Aid***

ACT 340 (SB246) requires that the federal cost of attendance method be used for students receiving state aid and addresses the order in which an institution of higher education awards aid. The act requires a student to be classified as an in-state resident for state-funded scholarship purposes if the student meets certain criteria. The act is identical to Act 341 of 2025.

ACT 341 (HB1512) requires that the federal cost of attendance method be used for students receiving state aid and addresses the order in which an institution of higher education awards aid. The act requires a student to be classified as an in-state resident for state-funded scholarship purposes if the student meets certain criteria. The act is identical to Act 340 of 2025.

Arkansas ACCESS Act - Funding

ACT 340 (SB246) amends the productivity-based funding model for state-supported institutions of higher education to authorize the Division of Higher Education to promulgate rules to implement a productivity-based funding model that includes the incorporation of a return on investment metric. The act also authorizes the division to promulgate rules to implement a funding formula to support noncredit programs at a state-supported institution of higher education. The act is identical to Act 341 of 2025.

ACT 341 (HB1512) amends the productivity-based funding model for state-supported institutions of higher education to authorize the Division of Higher Education to promulgate rules to implement a productivity-based funding model that includes the incorporation of a return on investment metric. The act also authorizes the division to promulgate rules to implement a funding formula to support noncredit programs at a state-supported institution of higher education. The act is identical to Act 340 of 2025.

Arkansas National Guard Tuition Benefit - Certain Private Colleges and Universities

ACT 826 (HB1786) establishes the eligibility requirements for a tuition benefit for soldiers and airmen of the Arkansas National Guard attending certain private two-year and four-year colleges and universities.

EDUCATION - HIGHER

TUITION AND FUNDING

Waiver - Arkansas National Guard

ACT 14 (HB1005) amends the eligibility requirements for tuition benefits for soldiers and airmen of the Arkansas National Guard to include programs of study leading to a postsecondary certificate or credential.

ELECTIONS

ABSENTEE VOTING

Absentee Ballot Voter Statement - Witness

ACT 846 (HB1925) requires that the signature of an absentee ballot voter statement be witnessed by an individual who is at least eighteen (18) years of age unless the voter is voting by absentee ballot for an exempt reason.

Long-Term Care Voter Assistance

ACT 403 (SB299) requires at least one (1) long-term care or residential care staff member to witness an administrator assist a voter with marking his or her absentee ballot.

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

Complaints of Election Law Violations

ACT 279 (SB291) amends the deadline for filing a complaint of an election law violation and amends the procedure for hearing complaints of election law violations by the State Board of Election Commissioners.

Election Audits

ACT 280 (SB294) allows the State Board of Election Commissioners to audit a county immediately preceding the preferential primary election or general election if the county is found to have less than one hundred percent (100%) count accuracy.

Election Expenses

ACT 281 (SB295) allows the State Board of Election Commissioners to pay for election monitoring with funds appropriated for election expenses.

Voter Assistance

ACT 593 (SB479) requires the State Board of Election Commissioners to promulgate rules concerning the documentation or identification required to assist a voter with a disability at the polling machine.

COUNTY ELECTIONS

Local Option - Canvasser Qualifications

ACT 115 (SB102) requires the sponsor of a local option petition to obtain a criminal history and criminal record for each canvasser to determine whether the canvasser has committed a disqualifying offense. The act prohibits a person from acting as a canvasser if the person is not a citizen of the United States and a resident of this state.

Local Option - Canvassing for Signatures

ACT 764 (SB551) requires a potential petitioner to read the ballot title or have the ballot title read aloud to him or her in the presence of a canvasser before the potential petitioner may sign the petition. The act requires a canvasser for a local initiative petition or referendum petition to disclose that petition fraud is a criminal offense to a potential petitioner. The act prohibits the county clerk from counting signatures collected by a canvasser if the county clerk finds that the canvasser has violated Arkansas laws regarding canvassing, perjury, forgery, or fraudulent practices in the solicitation of petition signatures. The act requires a canvasser for a local option petition to view a copy of a potential petitioner's photo identification before obtaining his or her signature and file a true affidavit certifying compliance with Arkansas laws regarding canvassing, perjury, forgery, and fraudulent practices in the solicitation of petition signatures.

ELECTIONS

FINANCE

Campaign Finance Reports - Electronic Filing Required

ACT 996 (HB1694) repeals alternative methods for filing campaign contribution and expenditure reports with the Secretary of State in lieu of electronic filing and allows a candidate to file by email, fax, or paper form in the event of an emergency.

Candidates for Local Government Offices - Reporting Calendar

ACT 994 (HB1243) amends the reporting requirements for candidates for county, school district, township, and municipal offices and requires candidates to file a monthly report, a preelection report, and a final report with the Secretary of State. The act provides that a candidate who has not received contributions or made expenditures in excess of a certain amount is required to file only a preelection report and a final report.

Initiated Measures - Prohibited Sources and Foreign Nationals

ACT 999 (HB1837) prohibits a ballot question committee or a legislative question committee from soliciting or accepting contributions or expenditures from a prohibited source and requires a ballot question committee or a legislative question committee receiving certain contributions to obtain affirmation from the donor that the donor is not a foreign national and has not received contributions from a prohibited source in excess of a certain amount. The act prohibits a foreign national from directly or indirectly participating in decision-making regarding a ballot question or legislative question and authorizes the Attorney General to enforce civil penalties for a violation under the act.

Representative of a Hostile Foreign Principal - Disclosure Required

ACT 998 (HB1800) requires representatives of a hostile foreign principal or a foreign-supported political organization to file a registration statement with the Secretary of State and authorizes the Secretary of State to enforce civil penalties for a violation under the act.

GENERALLY

Date of the Preferential Primary Election

ACT 405 (SB353) amends the date of the preferential primary election to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March. The act also amends the filing deadlines related to the preferential primary election.

Early Voting - Inclement Weather

ACT 766 (SB578) allows a county board of election commissioners to call an emergency meeting to close one (1) or more early voting locations due to inclement weather.

Notices - County Commissioner Oath - Certified Candidate List

ACT 463 (SB414) requires a county clerk to notify each county election commissioner of the oath requirement in writing and allows a county clerk to notify the chairs and secretaries of the political parties of the certified list of nominated candidates by email if the chairs consent to notification by email.

Voter Registration Lists Provided to Federal Courts

ACT 840 (HB1870) allows the Secretary of State to provide a federal court with a voter registration list to assist with the selection of jurors if the federal court agrees to provide notice to the Secretary of State concerning an ineligible or potentially ineligible voter.

INITIATED OR REFERRED MEASURES

Ballot Title Readability Standard

ACT 602 (HB1713) requires the Attorney General to reject a proposed ballot title for a statewide initiative petition or referendum petition if the proposed ballot title cannot be read at an eighth-grade reading level or below as determined by the Flesh-Kincaid Grade Level formula. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 14, 2025.

ELECTIONS**INITIATED OR REFERRED MEASURES*****Ballot Title Reading Requirement***

ACT 274 (SB210) requires a potential petitioner to read the ballot title of a statewide initiative petition or referendum petition or have the ballot title read aloud to the potential petitioner in the presence of a canvasser before the potential petitioner may sign the petition. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after March 12, 2025.

Ballot Titles - Attorney General Review

ACT 154 (HB1222) requires the Attorney General to review ballot titles for conflicts with the United States Constitution and prohibits the simultaneous submission to the Attorney General of multiple statewide initiative petitions or referendum petitions that are conflicting measures.

Canvasser Affidavit Requirement

ACT 241 (SB211) requires a canvasser for a statewide initiative petition or referendum petition to file a true affidavit certifying compliance with Arkansas laws regarding canvassing, perjury, forgery, and fraudulent practices in the solicitation of petition signatures. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after March 4, 2025.

Canvassers - Residence and Domicile

ACT 453 (HB1574) prohibits a person from acting as a canvasser if the person is not a resident of this state. The act prohibits a person from acting as a paid canvasser for a statewide initiative petition or referendum petition if the person is not domiciled in this state.

Certification of Ballot Title and Popular Name - Counting of Signatures

ACT 153 (HB1221) provides that a signature on an initiative or referendum petition is not valid and shall not be counted for any purpose if the signature was obtained after the date of the next general election following the certification of the ballot title and popular name. The act also provides that the certification of a ballot title and popular name expires on the date of the next general election after the certification of the ballot title and popular name. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after February 25, 2025.

Disqualified Signatures

ACT 273 (SB209) prohibits the Secretary of State from counting signatures collected by a canvasser if the Secretary of State finds that the canvasser violated Arkansas laws regarding canvassing, perjury, forgery, or fraudulent practices in the solicitation of petition signatures. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after March 12, 2025.

Fiscal Impact Statement Requirement

ACT 457 (HB1637) requires the Department of Finance and Administration to prepare a fiscal impact statement for statewide initiative and referendum measures and legislatively referred constitutional amendments and requires that the fiscal impact statement appear on the ballot.

Fraud Notification Requirement

ACT 218 (SB207) requires a canvasser for a statewide initiative petition or referendum petition to disclose to a potential petitioner that petition fraud is a criminal offense. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after February 27, 2025.

Hiring and Training of Paid Canvassers

ACT 768 (SB584) amends the law concerning the hiring and training of paid canvassers for statewide initiative petitions and referendum petitions to include local initiative petitions and local referendum petitions.

Photo Identification Requirement

ACT 240 (SB208) requires a canvasser for a statewide initiative petition or referendum petition to view a copy of a potential petitioner's photo identification before obtaining the potential petitioner's signature. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after March 4, 2025.

ELECTIONS

INITIATED OR REFERRED MEASURES

Proposed Measures - Publishing Required

ACT 272 (SB188) requires the Secretary of State to post the full text and other information concerning a proposed measure certified by the Attorney General on the Secretary of State's website.

JUDICIAL ELECTIONS

Ballot - Use of Prefix - Appointee to the Supreme Court or Court of Appeals

ACT 126 (HB1223) allows a candidate for the office of Justice of the Supreme Court or Judge of the Court of Appeals who is serving in that position as an appointee to use the title of that position as a prefix on the ballot in an election for nonpartisan judicial office.

Filing - Use of Prefix - Appointee to Supreme Court or Court of Appeals

ACT 715 (HB1891) allows a person filing as a candidate for the office of Justice of the Supreme Court or Judge of the Court of Appeals who is serving in that position as an appointee to use the title of that position as a prefix when filing as a candidate. The act is identical to Act 761 of 2025.

ACT 761 (SB516) allows a person filing as a candidate for the office of Justice of the Supreme Court or Judge of the Court of Appeals who is serving in that position as an appointee to use the title of that position as a prefix when filing as a candidate. The act is identical to Act 715 of 2025.

RECALL ELECTIONS

School Board Member Recall and Removal

ACT 912 (HB1933) allows qualified electors to petition for a recall election to remove a member of the school district board of directors from office by a majority vote of the electors qualified to vote for the office held by the member to be removed.

RUNOFF ELECTIONS

Municipalities - Runoff Elections

ACT 991 (SB608) repeals the runoff election procedure for a municipal office and requires a runoff election for a municipal office to be held in the same manner as a runoff election for a county elected office.

SCHOOL ELECTIONS

Candidate Filing Procedure

ACT 360 (SB270) clarifies that the one-week period for filing a petition for a school board election begins at noon.

Certification of School Board Candidates

ACT 460 (SB271) amends the date that the county clerk is required to certify candidates to the county board of election commissioners to align with the certification of candidates for the preferential primary election and the general election in even-numbered years.

Date of the Annual School Election in Odd-Numbered Years

ACT 405 (SB353) amends the date of and the filing deadlines related to the annual school election in odd-numbered years.

Election Date on a Legal Holiday

ACT 264 (SB292) requires an annual school election that is scheduled to occur on a state holiday to be moved to the third Tuesday of that month. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after March 12, 2025.

School Board Member Oath

ACT 401 (SB413) requires a newly elected member of a school district board of directors to subscribe to the required oath within a certain time period.

School Board Member Recall and Removal

ACT 912 (HB1933) allows qualified electors to petition for a recall election to remove a member of the school district board of directors from office by a majority vote of the electors qualified to vote for the office held by the member to be removed.

ELECTIONS

SCHOOL ELECTIONS

Term of Office - Date of School Board Election - Nonpartisan Office

ACT 503 (HB1724) amends the term of office for members of a school district board of directors and requires that school board elections be held in only even-numbered years with the preferential primary election. The act provides that a member of the school district board of directors is a nonpartisan office.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS - ELECTIONS

Arkansas Constitution - Amendment 51

ACT 221 (SB169) makes technical corrections recommended by the Arkansas Code Revision Commission to Amendment 51 of the Arkansas Constitution.

Title 7

ACT 166 (SB173) makes technical corrections recommended by the Arkansas Code Revision Commission to Title 7 of the Arkansas Code.

VOTING PROCEDURES

Damaged or Defective Ballots

ACT 458 (HB1693) requires the State Board of Election Commissioners to promulgate rules concerning the duplication of damaged or defective ballots.

Early Voting - Cities with a Population of More Than Fifteen Thousand

ACT 978 (HB1878) requires a county board of election commissioners to hold early voting in each city having a population of more than fifteen thousand (15,000) people if the county clerk is not conducting early voting in the city.

Early Voting - Locations Designated by the County Board of Election Commissioners

ACT 282 (SB296) clarifies that a county board of election commissioners may designate additional early voting locations for each election and provides that the county clerk designates the early voting location within the county seat.

Public Notice Postings at Polling Sites

ACT 487 (SB293) requires additional postings at polling sites on election day that contain information concerning voter assistance, poll watcher rights and responsibilities, and other information related to election day procedure.

Ranked Choice Voting

ACT 829 (HB1706) prohibits ranking candidates in order of preference to determine the election or nomination of a candidate for a local, state, or federal elective office. The act does not apply to a qualified elector voting by an absentee ballot under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

Registered Voter - Change in Residence

ACT 372 (SB304) allows a voter who has changed his or her county of residence to submit updated registration information to the county clerk before the polls close on election day in order to vote in the election.

Voter Assistance

ACT 593 (SB479) requires an individual assisting a voter with a disability at the polling machine to be present at the polling site, be eighteen (18) years of age or older, and present a document or identification card approved by the State Board of Election Commissioners.

Voter Registration - Party Affiliation Field

ACT 278 (SB272) requires a voter registration application form to be delivered to the applicant with the party affiliation field blank.

Write-In Candidates

ACT 284 (SB308) repeals references to write-in candidates in the Arkansas Code.

ENERGY

DEVELOPMENT

Property Assessed Capital Expenditure Financing

ACT 579 (SB448) authorizes the financing of energy efficiency improvements, alternative energy improvements, building resiliency improvements, and water conservation improvements in the state.

State Energy Policy

ACT 940 (SB596) establishes a state energy policy and regulates the retirement of certain dispatchable electric generation facilities in the state. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 21, 2025.

ENERGY OFFICE

Technical Feasibility Study - New Nuclear Energy Generation

ACT 707 (HB1572) requires the Department of Energy and Environment to engage an outside consulting firm to create a technical feasibility study on new nuclear energy generation and to deliver a written report of the findings. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 16, 2025.

REGULATION

Wind Energy Facilities

ACT 945 (SB437) creates a regulatory framework for the development and operation of wind energy facilities in the state, including provisions for permitting, local legislative involvement, and safety standards. The act requires a permit for any construction, operation, or redevelopment of wind energy facilities; requires compliance with local legislation; and provides the necessary steps for obtaining a permit. The act exempts wind energy facility projects under development as of April 9, 2025.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

Petroleum Storage Tank - Corrective Action Payment

ACT 148 (HB1383) modifies the maximum amount for interim payments for corrective action under the Petroleum Storage Tank Trust Fund Act.

Petroleum Storage Tank - Deductible for Corrective Action Payment

ACT 706 (HB1277) requires the Arkansas Pollution and Ecology Commission to set a deductible that must be expended before an owner or operator is eligible to receive payment for corrective actions relating to petroleum storage tanks.

POLLUTION PREVENTION

Small Business Revolving Loan Fund - Repealed

ACT 735 (SB367) repeals the Small Business Revolving Loan Fund and the Small Business Revolving Loan Fund for Pollution Control and Prevention Technologies Act, which authorized the Division of Environmental Quality to establish and administer a revolving loan fund to encourage investment in pollution control and prevention technologies in this state.

RECYCLING

Computer and Electronic Recycling Fund and Grants - Repealed

ACT 778 (SB369) repeals the Computer and Electronic Recycling Fund and the law concerning computer and electronic equipment recycling grants. The act also modifies the disbursement of revenues generated from the sale of agency surplus computer and electronic equipment.

Marketing Recyclables Program and Marketing Recyclables Program Fund - Repealed

ACT 697 (SB460) modifies the membership of the Compliance Advisory Panel and repeals the Marketing Recyclables Program Fund and the Marketing Recyclables Program of the Compliance Advisory Panel, which coordinated all existing marketing programs for recyclables and encouraged the use of recyclables. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 16, 2025.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Agreements or Contracts for Host Fees

ACT 815 (HB1768) requires an agreement or contract for a host fee paid to a host community in which a solid waste landfill is located to be voted on at a regularly scheduled meeting of the host community, prohibits the agreement or contract from exceeding a certain term, and provides for the renewal or renegotiation of an agreement or contract for a host fee.

Membership of Licensing Committees and Apprenticeship Licenses

ACT 294 (SB265) modifies the membership of the licensing committee related to wastewater and names it the Wastewater Licensing Committee and modifies the membership of the licensing committee related to solid waste and names it the Solid Waste Licensing Committee. The act also amends apprenticeship licenses for solid waste operators-in-training and the participation requirements for environmental officers.

Prohibition Against Serving as Member of Certain Boards and Commissions

ACT 376 (HB1575) prohibits a person who is employed or has a direct or indirect financial interest in a firm, business, or organization that owns, operates, represents, or applies for a solid waste license or permit from serving as a member on the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission or a regional solid waste planning district or board.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS - ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Title 8

ACT 167 (SB174) makes technical corrections recommended by the Arkansas Code Revision Commission to Title 8 of the Arkansas Code.

WATER POLLUTION AND CONTROL

Industrial Wastewater Residuals - Maximum Penalty

ACT 1009 (HB1762) requires the Division of Environmental Quality to assess the maximum allowable penalty if a person permitted to manage industrial wastewater residuals by land application violates a permit resulting in an over-application or a precipitation-related surface land application. The act also requires the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission to promulgate a rule to authorize no-discharge land application permits of industrial waste.

Nonmunicipal Domestic Sewage Treatment Works

ACT 935 (SB546) modifies when the Division of Environmental Quality can consider an application to issue or modify the increase design flow of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit or state permit for a nonmunicipal domestic sewage treatment works, repeals expired language to reduce or waive the amount of the required financial assurance for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, and amends the trust fund contribution fee for water permits.

ETHICS

ETHICS COMMISSION

Campaign Materials - References to Carryover Funds

ACT 592 (SB351) allows a committee, an individual, or an elected official to reuse campaign signs and campaign materials that were previously reported. The act requires an executive director of an education service cooperative to file a statement of financial interest with the county clerk. The act clarifies the use and reporting of remaining campaign funds and repeals references to carryover funds.

ETHICS

ETHICS COMMISSION

Establishment of Campaign Contribution Limit

ACT 270 (HB1369) provides the timeline for adjusting the maximum campaign contribution limit by the Arkansas Ethics Commission following the certification of a change to the Federal Election Commission by the United States Secretary of Labor, provides that the maximum campaign contribution limit is not a rule, and requires the revised maximum campaign contribution limit to be effective when published on the official website of the Arkansas Ethics Commission. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after March 12, 2025.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

Campaign Finance Reports - Electronic Filing Required

ACT 996 (HB1694) repeals alternative methods for filing campaign contribution and expenditure reports with the Secretary of State in lieu of electronic filing and allows a candidate to file by email, fax, or paper form in the event of an emergency.

Candidates for Local Government Offices - Reporting Calendar

ACT 994 (HB1243) amends the reporting requirements for candidates for county, school district, township, and municipal offices and requires candidates to file a monthly report, a preelection report, and a final report with the Secretary of State. The act provides that a candidate who has not received contributions or made expenditures in excess of a certain amount is required to file only a preelection report and a final report.

Candidates for State or District Office - Reporting Deadline

ACT 250 (HB1449) extends the deadline for final reports for candidates for state or district offices.

Filing - Candidates for Local Government Offices

ACT 524 (HB1707) requires a candidate for a county, municipal, township, or school district office to file the required disclosures electronically with the Secretary of State. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 10, 2025.

Initiated Measures - Prohibited Sources and Foreign Nationals

ACT 999 (HB1837) prohibits a ballot question committee or a legislative question committee from soliciting or accepting contributions or expenditures from a prohibited source and requires a ballot question committee or a legislative question committee receiving certain contributions to obtain affirmation from the donor that the donor is not a foreign national and has not received contributions from a prohibited source in excess of a certain amount. The act prohibits a foreign national from directly or indirectly participating in decision-making regarding a ballot question or legislative question and authorizes the Attorney General to enforce civil penalties for a violation under the act.

Representative of a Hostile Foreign Principal - Disclosure Required

ACT 998 (HB1800) requires representatives of a hostile foreign principal or a foreign-supported political organization to file a registration statement with the Secretary of State and authorizes the Secretary of State to enforce civil penalties for a violation under the act.

FAMILY LAW

ADOPTION

Interlocutory Decree of Adoption

ACT 744 (SB599) prohibits the entry of an interlocutory decree of adoption.

Minor's Consent

ACT 713 (HB1838) requires a minor who is twelve (12) years of age or older to provide his or her consent to his or her adoption at the adoption hearing and allows the court to waive this requirement if the court finds it to be in the minor's best interest.

FAMILY LAW

ADOPTION

Residency Requirement

ACT 139 (HB1292) prohibits a decree of adoption of a child from being issued for a child that is not in the custody of the Department of Human Services until the child has lived in the home for at least six (6) months. The act provides an exception for a child who is the stepchild of the petitioner or who is fewer than six (6) months of age at the time the petition is filed.

Sincerely Held Religious Beliefs

ACT 509 (HB1669) prohibits the establishment or enforcement of a standard, rule, or policy that excepts a current or prospective foster or preadoptive parent for placement of a child based on the current or prospective foster or preadoptive parent's sincerely held religious beliefs regarding sexual orientation or gender identity. The act also prohibits the state from taking an adverse action against a person to whom the state grants custody of a foster child or grants adoption of an adoptive child or who seeks custody of a foster child or the adoption of an adoptive child on the basis of the person guiding, instructing, or raising a child or intending to do so in a manner consistent with a sincerely held religious belief.

CHILD SUPPORT

State Police Retirement System Benefits

ACT 127 (HB1207) amends the law under the State Police Retirement System that allows survivors' benefits for the surviving unmarried children of an officer who was killed in the line of duty but was not a member of the system by increasing the maximum eligible age for an unmarried child who is enrolled in an institution of higher education. The act also allows a court to order a retirant's monthly benefit to be paid into the registry of the court if the retirant willfully refuses or fails to pay child support in violation of a court order.

CUSTODY AND VISITATION

Parents Who Are First Responders

ACT 388 (HB1704) prohibits a court from permanently modifying an order for child custody or visitation based solely on the work schedule of a parent who is a first responder. The act also requires the maximization of time and contact between a parent who is a first responder and his or her child in a way that is consistent with the best interest of the child.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Orders of Protection - Video Voyeurism

ACT 765 (SB555) amends the definition of "domestic abuse" with respect to orders of protection to include an act that constitutes the criminal offense of video voyeurism.

Outstanding Warrants

ACT 828 (HB1433) requires a law enforcement officer who is executing or serving an order of protection on a person to also check for an outstanding criminal warrant for the person being served before executing service.

Shelters - Sex Designation of Restrooms, Changing Rooms, and Sleeping Quarters

ACT 955 (SB486) requires domestic violence shelters, state and local correctional facilities, and public buildings to designate multi-occupancy restrooms, changing rooms, and sleeping quarters based on an individual's sex; prohibits a person from entering a restroom or changing room that is not designated for his or her sex; and prohibits a shelter, correctional facility, or public building from requiring a person to share sleeping quarters with a member of the opposite sex. The act creates exceptions for persons entering a restroom, changing room, or sleeping quarters for certain purposes and allows a shelter, correctional facility, or governmental entity to adopt policies to accommodate individuals with disabilities, certain children, and elderly persons requiring aid. The act creates a private cause of action by a person against a shelter, correctional facility, or governmental entity that violates the act if certain circumstances exist.

FAMILY LAW

MARRIAGE

Replacement of Certificate of Marriage

ACT 845 (HB1902) allows the parties to a marriage to request a new certificate of marriage by submitting a notarized affidavit to the county clerk of the county where the original certificate of marriage was issued if the original certificate has been lost, burned, or destroyed.

FIRE PROTECTION

FINANCE

Loans for Rural Fire Protection Services

ACT 767 (SB580) increases the maximum loan period for the purchase of vehicles and equipment for rural fire protection services.

FIREFIGHTERS

Health Insurance - Retirees

ACT 415 (HB1313) expands health benefit coverage for eligible firefighter retirees of municipalities and counties who are eligible to retire with full retirement benefits but are not eligible for Medicare enrollment until the eligible firefighter retiree is a Medicare-eligible person.

PROTECTION DISTRICTS

Adjustment of Boundaries

ACT 818 (HB1855) amends the procedure for adjusting the boundaries of overlapping, abutting, or contiguous fire protection districts. The act allows the Department of Agriculture to make a recommendation to the county court for the adjustment of the boundaries of a fire protection district.

Levying Dues - Volunteer Fire Departments

ACT 673 (HB1416) provides that only a volunteer fire department that has a fire protection district that covers an unincorporated area of the county may levy dues for those areas of the county.

SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES

Equipment Reimbursement Rates

ACT 417 (HB1414) requires the Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board to use the current Schedule of Equipment Rates published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to determine reimbursement rates for fire departments.

FIREARMS

POSSESSION

Firearm Hold Agreement - Immunity from Civil Liability

ACT 106 (HB1067) establishes immunity from civil liability for a federal firearms licensee for an act or omission arising from a firearm hold agreement that results in personal injury or the death of a person unless the act was the result of otherwise unlawful conduct on the part of the federal firearm licensee.

SALE AND PURCHASE

Firearm Merchant Code

ACT 452 (HB1509) prohibits financial institutions from using discriminatory practices involving a firearm merchant code, creates enforcement provisions for prohibited conduct, and provides alternatives for state community banks.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

EXEMPTIONS

Department of Agriculture - Certain Records

ACT 585 (HB1740) exempts certificates of veterinary inspection and personal information obtained from or associated with an animal electronic identification tag received by or in the custody of the Department of Agriculture from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act of 1967.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

EXEMPTIONS

Personal or Financial Information of a Student-Athlete

ACT 839 (HB1917) provides that personal or financial information of a student-athlete contained in a license agreement between an institution of higher education and a student-athlete for the commercial use of the student-athlete's publicity rights is confidential and not subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act of 1967.

GENERALLY

Protection and Advocacy Agency and Client Assistance Program

ACT 481 (HB1382) clarifies that the Freedom of Information Act of 1967 applies to the designated Protection and Advocacy Agency for the state and the designated Client Assistance Program for the state.

MEETINGS

Public Meetings - Attending Remotely - Prohibitions

ACT 505 (SB227) amends the law concerning public meetings under the Freedom of Information Act of 1967. The act adds definitions for the terms "background and nondecisional information," "cybersecurity," "deliberation," "governing body," "informal meeting," "poll," "public entity," "public meeting," and "remotely"; requires a governing body to publish the time, place, date, and agenda of a public meeting online if the governing body maintains a website or social media; and requires the governing body to state publicly the specific purpose of an executive session before entering into the executive session. The act requires all members of a governing body to physically attend a public meeting to vote or be counted towards a quorum with the exception of a governing body other than a municipality, county, or public school district that adopts a policy permitting members of the governing body to attend a public meeting remotely. The act requires the remote attendance of a member of a governing body at a public meeting to be recorded and requires the governing body to provide a remote means for Arkansas residents to attend a public meeting if remote means are used by members of the governing body to attend the public meeting. The act prohibits a member of a governing body from participating in any communication he or she knows or reasonably should know is a poll or that occurs outside of a public meeting with another member of the governing body about a matter on which official action will be taken by the governing body. The act prohibits informal meetings of a governing body and allows a circuit court to invalidate any action taken by a governing body in violation of the act.

State Board of Appraisers, Abstracters, and Home Inspectors - Executive Sessions

ACT 949 (SB443) repeals the requirement that disciplinary hearings conducted by the State Board of Appraisers, Abstracters, and Home Inspectors for the purpose of deciding whether to levy civil penalties be executive sessions under the Freedom of Information Act of 1967. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Violations Concerning the Issuance of Bonds

ACT 992 (SB614) allows a circuit court to impose penalties and invalidate an action concerning the issuance of bonds taken by a governing body during a public meeting in violation of the Freedom of Information Act of 1967 and allows the governing body to cure a violation in certain circumstances.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

RECORDS

Custodian of Records - Learning Materials as Public Records

ACT 649 (SB572) amends the definition of "public records" to include learning materials used in or maintained by a public school or public school district. The act prohibits a custodian of records from denying a resident access to learning materials under the Freedom of Information Act of 1967 on the grounds that disclosure, inspection, or copying of the learning materials would constitute an infringement of copyright under federal law and prohibits a custodian of learning materials from entering into an agreement to restrict public access to learning materials based on intellectual property rights. The act prohibits a person who receives access to copyrighted learning materials from using the materials for any purpose other than public inspection. The act prohibits a custodian of records from requiring a nondisclosure agreement or waiver of rights under the Freedom of Information Act of 1967 before providing access to learning materials.

Reports Involving Railroad Fatalities

ACT 931 (SB397) requires a custodian of records to maintain a public record concerning a railroad fatality in a manner that ensures the confidentiality of the personal information of the railroad crew involved in the fatality and requires the custodian to redact the personal information of the railroad crew if the public record is disclosed publicly, except in certain circumstances.

GAMBLING AND RACING

CASINOS

Self-Exclusion List

ACT 798 (HB1847) authorizes the Arkansas Racing Commission to maintain a statewide self-exclusion list and prohibits an individual on the self-exclusion list from collecting any winnings or recovering any losses arising as a result of prohibited gaming activity.

GREYHOUND RACING

Racing and Simulcasting - Prohibited

ACT 394 (HB1721) prohibits greyhound racing and simulcasting of greyhound racing. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2028.

RACING COMMISSION

Self-Exclusion List

ACT 798 (HB1847) authorizes the Arkansas Racing Commission to maintain a statewide self-exclusion list and prohibits an individual on the self-exclusion list from collecting any winnings or recovering any losses arising as a result of prohibited gaming activity.

RAFFLES

Sports Raffles - Authorization

ACT 305 (HB1634) authorizes an institution of higher education or an affiliated nonprofit organization to conduct a raffle and utilize receipts from the raffle for certain purposes. The act prohibits the use of receipts from a raffle to compensate a person who works for or is affiliated with the organization conducting the raffle and prohibits a person under eighteen (18) years of age from purchasing a raffle ticket. The act provides an exception for raffles under the Arkansas Sports Raffle Act related to prohibited practices on the premises of holders of certain alcoholic beverage permits. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after March 18, 2025.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

Disposition Reports

ACT 20 (SB18) clarifies the matters subject to the filing of disposition reports by the Attorney General with the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee when the matters have not previously been reported as resolved.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

Uniform Chart of Accounts

ACT 111 (HB1311) requires the Legislative Auditor to develop a comprehensive financial management system to be known as the "uniform chart of accounts" for appropriated funds of cities of the second class and incorporated towns and provides for the implementation of the uniform chart of accounts in the various cities and towns. The act requires the Legislative Auditor to develop and complete a process for phasing in the use of the uniform chart of accounts within thirty-six (36) months following the effective date of the act.

BUREAU OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH

Electronic Legal Materials

ACT 814 (HB1739) adopts the Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act. The act requires an official publisher of legal materials in an electronic format, including the Arkansas Constitution, the Arkansas Code, the Code of Arkansas Rules, and a state agency rule, to designate the electronic record as official and to authenticate the record. The act also requires an official publisher to preserve and secure official legal materials and ensure that the materials are available for use by the public. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.

COMMITTEES

Child Maltreatment Investigations Oversight Committee

ACT 404 (SB339) requires the legislative members of the Child Maltreatment Investigations Oversight Committee to biennially elect from their membership the Chair of the Child Maltreatment Investigations Oversight Committee.

Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs - Creation

ACT 34 (HB1056) creates the Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs and provides for the membership, meeting requirements, staffing, and powers and duties of the committee. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after February 11, 2025.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Fiscal Impact Statement Requirement

ACT 457 (HB1637) requires the Department of Finance and Administration to prepare a fiscal impact statement for statewide initiative and referendum measures and legislatively referred constitutional amendments and requires that the fiscal impact statement appear on the ballot.

GENERALLY

Date of the Fiscal Session

ACT 405 (SB353) amends the date of the Fiscal Session to occur on the second Wednesday in April each even-numbered year. The act amends the prefiling deadline and preparation dates for the Fiscal Session.

LEGISLATION

Fiscal Impact - Cost Obligation for Health Benefit Plans - Repealed

ACT 2 (HB1080) repeals the requirement for a fiscal impact statement for proposed legislation imposing a new or increased cost obligation for health benefit plans on an entity of the state and repeals the bill filing deadline for bills affecting the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program and other health benefit plans of entities of the state.

Property Tax Relief Trust Fund - Three-Fourths Vote Required

ACT 121 (HB1074) requires a distribution from the Property Tax Relief Trust Fund to be for the purpose of providing property tax relief and requires a three-fourths vote of each house of the General Assembly to use moneys in the fund for a purpose other than property tax relief.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Bond Issues - Program Fact Sheet Requirement - Repealed

ACT 468 (SB384) repeals the requirement that the Arkansas Development Finance Authority submit a program fact sheet to the Legislative Council and Arkansas Legislative Audit for each new bond issue.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Higher Education Contract Amendments - Summary Requirement - Repealed

ACT 402 (SB417) repeals the requirement for institutions of higher education to submit a summary of contract amendments to Legislative Council.

Proclamation to Set Per-Mile Deduction - Not a "Rule" Subject to Approval

ACT 614 (SB412) authorizes the Department of Finance and Administration to set the per-mile amount for the income tax deduction for travel and transportation expenses by proclamation and exempts the proclamation from the definition of a "rule" for purposes of the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act and review and approval by the legislature.

Public-Private Partnerships - Department of the Military

ACT 575 (HB1526) allows the Secretary of the Department of the Military to enter into a public-private partnership to accept voluntary services or personal property from a private entity to facilitate recruiting and retention. The act also requires that an agreement for a public-private partnership be presented to the Legislative Council or the Joint Budget Committee for reporting and review in certain circumstances.

Report - State Agency Compliance - Prohibition of Discrimination

ACT 116 (SB3) prohibits discrimination and preferential treatment by public entities on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin and repeals laws related to diversity, equity, and affirmative action. The act also requires state agencies to report to the Legislative Council concerning their compliance with the act.

Report - Water and Sewer Treatment Facilities Grant Program

ACT 812 (HB1681) establishes the Water and Sewer Treatment Facilities Grant Program to be administered by the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission to award grants to eligible water and sewer treatment facilities. The act requires the commission to report annually to the Legislative Council or, if the General Assembly is in session, the Joint Budget Committee. The act provides that the program expires five (5) years from the effective date of the act. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 17, 2025.

Report by Secretary of Cabinet-Level Department

ACT 219 (SB63) repeals language requiring the secretary of each cabinet-level department to provide an oral report on the state of his or her department to the Legislative Council by November 1 of each odd-numbered year.

Report from Organ Procurement Organizations

ACT 861 (HB1679) requires an organ procurement organization that procures or recovers organs or tissues in this state to submit an annual report to the Legislative Council.

Reports - Protection and Advocacy Agency and Client Assistance Program

ACT 481 (HB1382) requires the designated Protection and Advocacy Agency for the state and the designated Client Assistance Program for the state to submit biannual reports to the Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee of Legislative Council and the Governor, attend meetings of the subcommittee, and provide information requested by the subcommittee. The act also provides that the Freedom of Information Act of 1967 applies to the designated Protection and Advocacy Agency for the state and the designated Client Assistance Program for the state.

Study of Workforce and Social Services

ACT 145 (SB50) requires the Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee of the Legislative Council to study issues related to the reform of the state's workforce and social services and to consider related legislation that may be necessary to remedy any issues identified during the course of the study. The act provides for the expiration of the study on December 31, 2026.

HEALTH**ABORTION*****Medical Emergency Definition Changes***

ACT 387 (HB1610) amends the Arkansas Human Life Protection Act and the Arkansas Unborn Child Protection Act to modify the definition of "medical emergency," exclude certain conditions from the definition of "medical emergency," and define the term "reasonable medical judgment." The act also removes and replaces the affirmative defense in the Arkansas Human Life Protection Act and the Arkansas Unborn Child Protection Act that relates to a licensed physician providing medical treatment to a pregnant woman that results in an accidental or unintentional injury or death to the unborn child with a simple defense to the prohibitions on abortion under the acts.

Race-Selection Abortion Prohibited

ACT 973 (SB591) prohibits race-selection abortion. The act becomes effective only upon the certification by the Attorney General that the state is enjoined from preventing a person from purposely performing or attempting to perform an abortion or that the Arkansas Human Life Protection Act or the Arkansas Unborn Child Protection Act has been repealed or amended to allow a person to purposely perform or attempt to perform an abortion.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS***Arkansas Commission for the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Initiative***

ACT 104 (HB1310) amends the law that establishes a network of postnatal tissue and fluid banks for collection and storage of postnatal tissue and fluid and creates the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Bank. The act also abolishes the Arkansas Commission for the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Initiative and transfers the authority, duties, functions, records, contracts, personnel, property, and funds to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after February 18, 2025.

Arkansas Primary Care Payment Improvement Working Group

ACT 483 (SB264) establishes the Arkansas Primary Care Payment Improvement Working Group to conduct an evaluation of the current amount spent on primary care and other healthcare services, determine the adequacy of the primary care delivery system, study the primary care payment landscape in other states, and report its findings and recommendations to Legislative Council. The act also modifies the Arkansas Health Transparency Initiative to include non-claims-based payments made to providers.

Designated Protection and Advocacy Agency and Designated Client Assistance Program

ACT 481 (HB1382) requires the designated Protection and Advocacy Agency for the state and the designated Client Assistance Program for the state to submit biannual reports to the Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee of Legislative Council and the Governor, attend meetings of the subcommittee, and provide information requested by the subcommittee. The act also provides that the Freedom of Information Act of 1967 applies to the designated Protection and Advocacy Agency for the state and the designated Client Assistance Program for the state.

State Kidney Disease Commission

ACT 852 (HB1456) amends the State Kidney Disease Commission to become an advisory council to the Department of Health. The act provides that the terms of the members of the commission expire on the effective date of the act and requires the State Board of Health to appoint new members to the advisory council.

DENTISTRY***Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact***

ACT 395 (SB111) establishes the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact in Arkansas, which allows dentists and dental hygienists licensed in compact states to provide dental services in a compact state without becoming licensed in the state. The act provides that the Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners is the administrator of the compact for this state.

HEALTH

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Ambulance Service Operators - Exemptions from Telemedicine Requirements

ACT 856 (HB1285) establishes a protocol for ambulance service operators for certain healthcare services that are exempt from the telemedicine requirement and provides a process for ambulance service operators to apply for exemptions from the telemedicine requirement.

Ambulance Services - Payment Process

ACT 836 (HB1863) clarifies the payment process for ambulance services, requires contracting entities to pay claims for authorized ambulance services within thirty (30) days of receipt unless there is evidence of fraud or misrepresentation, and requires the Arkansas Ambulance Association to collect rates approved or contracted between ambulance providers and local government entities on or after July 1, 2025, and submit the information annually to the Insurance Commissioner. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 17, 2025.

Ambulance Services - Reimbursement

ACT 199 (HB1286) clarifies that an ambulance service may receive reimbursement for treating a patient in place when the patient refuses to be transported.

Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee - Creation

ACT 863 (HB1767) abolishes the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council, creates the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee, and transfers the powers and duties of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee and the State Board of Health. The act allows the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee to make recommendations for rules to be adopted by the State Board of Health on all matters relating to emergency medical services. The act also transfers the licensing of emergency medical personnel and duties pertaining to the EMS Enhancement Revolving Fund from the Division of Emergency Medical Services to the Department of Health.

Emergency Medical Services Funding

ACT 1021 (HB1841) creates a special revenue fund to support emergency medical services agencies, sets eligibility requirements and establishes an application process for emergency medical services agencies to receive funding, and provides for the distribution of moneys in the fund to qualified emergency medical services agencies based on county population. The act requires the State Board of Health to implement the act.

Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact

ACT 384 (HB1253) establishes the Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact in Arkansas, which allows emergency medical services personnel licensed in compact states to provide emergency medical services in a compact state without becoming licensed in the state. The act provides that the Department of Health is the administrator of the compact and amends the criminal history check requirements for emergency medical services personnel to comply with the compact.

Ground Ambulance Services - Reimbursement Rates

ACT 867 (HB1850) clarifies the minimum allowable reimbursement rates for ground ambulance services under health benefit plans and specifies that the reimbursement rate for both in-network and out-of-network ground ambulance service providers is based on the rates approved or contracted between the ambulance service provider and the local government entity. The act also provides for the minimum allowable reimbursement if no rates are set. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 17, 2025.

FOOD

Food Donation Liability and Immunity

ACT 942 (HB1682) repeals and replaces the protection from liability for food donation and exempts from civil or criminal liability charitable donors and distributors of food in certain circumstances.

HEALTH**FOOD*****Prohibition on Certain Chemicals***

ACT 622 (SB9) prohibits a person or entity from manufacturing, selling, delivering, distributing, holding, or offering for sale in commerce a food product for human consumption that contains potassium bromate or propylparaben and provides for civil penalties for a violation of the prohibition. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2028.

Raw Milk

ACT 125 (HB1048) clarifies the places where raw goat milk, raw sheep milk, and whole milk that has not been pasteurized may be sold directly to consumers.

Raw Milk and Raw Milk Products

ACT 698 (SB464) removes the restriction of incidental sales of raw milk and allows the sales of raw milk and raw milk products at locations other than the farm where the raw milk or raw milk product was produced. The act also modifies the point of sale sign for raw milk and adds labeling requirements for raw milk products. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 16, 2025.

Repackaging of Eggs

ACT 285 (HB1279) authorizes the repackaging of eggs by a retailer if the eggs used to replace missing or broken eggs meet certain criteria.

GENERALLY***Childcare Facilities - Anaphylaxis Policies***

ACT 865 (HB1817) requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Health and the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, to establish an anaphylaxis policy for childcare facilities and create information materials detailing the anaphylaxis policy to be distributed to childcare facilities and made available on the websites of the departments. The act also requires the Department of Education to forward the anaphylaxis policy to all childcare facilities.

Community-Based Residential Homes for Individuals with Disabilities

ACT 850 (HB1537) repeals the Location Act for Community Homes for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, which established licensure, zoning, standards, and limitations for community-based residential homes that provide room and board, personal care, habilitation services, and supervision for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Consumable Hemp Products Regulation

ACT 934 (SB533) creates regulations and standards for consumable hemp products under Arkansas Tobacco Control and repeals regulatory statutes for hemp-derived products. The act also modifies the definitions of "industrial hemp" and "marijuana," modifies the special revenues of Arkansas Tobacco Control to include revenues from permits and licenses for consumable hemp products, and modifies the Arkansas Tobacco Control Revenue Fund to include fees from permits and licenses for consumable hemp products. The act is effective on and after the certification of the Attorney General that one (1) of four (4) circumstances are met.

Fertility Awareness-Based Methods and Assisted Reproductive Technology

ACT 859 (HB1142) prohibits discrimination against a healthcare provider that does not or declines to participate in or facilitate assisted reproductive technology, requires certain facilities to include fertility awareness-based methods as part of covered family planning and reproductive health services, requires the Department of Health to integrate information about fertility awareness-based methods into existing public health programs, and modifies the insurance coverage of in vitro fertilization to include restorative reproductive medicine.

Firework Sales Extended

ACT 108 (HB1324) amends the time period for permissible sales of fireworks.

HEALTH**GENERALLY*****Ivermectin Sold Without a Prescription***

ACT 396 (SB189) authorizes ivermectin for human use to be sold without a prescription or consultation with a healthcare professional.

Labeling of Hair Relaxers

ACT 964 (SB632) requires the labeling of hair relaxers that contain carcinogens or reproductive toxicants, or both.

Modular Building Inspections

ACT 101 (HB1205) amends the law concerning the independent inspections of a modular building for code compliance by adding an additional accreditation body that may perform independent inspections. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after February 18, 2025.

Organ Donation Revocation

ACT 861 (HB1679) modifies the Revised Arkansas Anatomical Gift Act to allow the donor's durable power of attorney for health care to modify, amend, or revoke the donor's prior anatomical gift before the donor's death and to allow certain classes of persons to modify, amend, or revoke the donor's prior anatomical gift in certain circumstances. The act also requires an organ procurement organization that procures or recovers organs or tissues in this state to submit a written report to the Legislative Council on or before January 31 of every year.

Prohibition on Over-the-Counter Diet Pills

ACT 642 (HB1782) prohibits the selling, transferring, or otherwise furnishing of an over-the-counter diet pill to a person under eighteen (18) years of age by a retail establishment. The act provides that a violation is a deceptive and unconscionable trade practice and requires the Department of Health to impose a fine on a retail establishment in addition to the penalties imposed under the Deceptive Trade Practices Act.

Right to Try Individualized Investigational Treatment

ACT 201 (SB136) authorizes a patient with a life-threatening or severely debilitating illness to access individualized investigational treatment.

Surrogate Authority

ACT 202 (SB178) clarifies the ability of a surrogate to obtain records on a principal's income, assets, and banking and financial records.

HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS***Aggravated Assault upon a Healthcare Worker***

ACT 753 (SB435) creates the criminal offense of aggravated assault upon a healthcare worker as a Class D felony.

Athletic Trainers - Scope of Practice

ACT 266 (HB1213) clarifies the definition of "athlete" relating to athletic training and modifies the direction and supervision of an athletic trainer. The act also defines the term "healthcare provider" regarding student athlete concussion education and protocols and requires the Department of Health to provide an updated type of healthcare provider list to the Arkansas Activities Association.

Audiology - Scope of Practice

ACT 517 (SB118) amends the definition of "audiology" relating to the practice of audiologists to clarify the scope of practice of an audiologist.

Criminal History Records Checks

ACT 674 (HB1454) amends the laws concerning criminal history records checks for employees of healthcare service providers to allow third-party employee evaluation services to perform criminal history records checks and to require criminal history records checks for independent contractors.

HEALTH

HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

Dietitian Licensure Compact

ACT 799 (HB1185) establishes the Dietitian Licensure Compact in Arkansas, which allows dietitians licensed in compact states to provide dietetic services in a compact state without becoming licensed in the state. The act provides that the Arkansas Dietetics Licensing Board is the administrator of the compact for this state. The act also amends the criminal history checks for dietitians to comply with the criminal history checks within the compact.

Electronic Records

ACT 141 (SB137) permits healthcare providers to maintain medical records in an electronic format and establishes a process for providing copies of electronic medical records.

Exemption on Home Caregiver Training

ACT 643 (HB1854) exempts a home caregiver from the home caregiver training if he or she has previously completed the home caregiver training.

Hearing Instrument Dispensers - Practice Definition

ACT 641 (HB1758) amends the definition of "practice of dispensing hearing instruments" to include ordering the use of suitable hearing instruments.

Interstate Massage Compact

ACT 267 (HB1217) establishes the Interstate Massage Compact in Arkansas, which allows massage therapists licensed in compact states to provide massage therapy services in a compact state without becoming licensed in the state. The act provides that the Department of Health is the administrator of the compact for this state.

Licensed Psychological Practitioner

ACT 433 (HB1254) authorizes a licensed psychological practitioner to be licensed by the Arkansas Psychology Board and allows a licensed psychological practitioner to practice independently. The act also removes the independent practice privileges from psychological examiners and places a moratorium on new psychological examiner licenses after December 31, 2026.

Physical Therapists - Signature Authority

ACT 98 (HB1138) authorizes an advanced practice registered nurse, a physician assistant, or a physical therapist to certify that a patient is a person with a disability for the purposes of the Access to Parking for Persons with Disabilities Act. The act also amends the signature authority of an advanced practice registered nurse and a physician assistant to match the certification language for a physical therapist for a patient who has a disability.

Physician Assistant Delegation

ACT 437 (SB99) authorizes a physician assistant to delegate certain tasks.

Physician Assistant Licensure Compact

ACT 300 (SB101) establishes the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact in Arkansas, which allows physician assistants licensed in compact states to provide medical services in a compact state without becoming licensed in the state. The act provides that the Arkansas State Medical Board is the administrator of the compact for this state.

Procurer of Chiropractic Physician

ACT 309 (HB1405) adds regulations concerning solicitation for medical services and the use of a procurer by a licensed chiropractic physician.

Psychology Technicians

ACT 434 (HB1257) removes the limitation of the practice of neuropsychology from technicians employed by psychologists and allows psychology technicians to be employed by psychologists. The act also sets certain standards for the education of technicians, allows technicians to administer fitness-to-proceed examinations, and allows psychologists to be reimbursed for services provided by technicians.

HEALTH

HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

Right of Conscience - Additional Protections

ACT 970 (SB444) includes medical research under the definition of "healthcare service" for purposes of the law concerning the right of conscience for healthcare institutions, healthcare payers, and medical practitioners and grants a worker in the medical field the right to not facilitate or participate in an abortion, assisted suicide, or gender transition procedure or service. The act specifies that emergency medical care services are not violations if performed in accordance with the law and creates additional protections from discrimination and protections for speech, expression, or association.

Signature Authority - Diabetic Shoes and Shoe Inserts

ACT 431 (HB1167) modifies the signature authority of advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to clarify that the authorization for durable medical equipment includes diabetic shoes and shoe inserts.

Student Athlete Concussion - Chiropractor Healthcare Provider

ACT 645 (SB467) amends the definition of "healthcare provider" as created by Acts 2025, No. 266, to include chiropractors or chiropractic physicians in relation to the requirement for student athlete concussion education.

Veterinary Medicine - Indirect Supervision for Emergency Calls

ACT 19 (SB68) authorizes a supervising veterinarian to use indirect supervision to allow veterinary technicians, veterinary technologists, and veterinary technician specialists to go to a location other than the location of the supervising veterinarian to provide services based on an emergency call.

Veterinary Telemedicine

ACT 18 (SB61) authorizes veterinary telemedicine and allows a veterinarian to provide veterinary telemedicine in an emergency or urgent situation without a previously established veterinarian-client-patient relationship if the veterinarian establishes the veterinarian-client-patient relationship within a set time period.

HEALTH CENTERS

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Program - Emergency Medication Kit

ACT 637 (HB1677) authorizes an alcohol and drug abuse treatment program to maintain an emergency medication kit if the alcohol and drug abuse treatment program has a physician or other medical personnel on staff and can administer the controlled substances and noncontrolled legend drugs and requires the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy to adopt rules regarding the emergency medication kit.

Genetic Sequencers and Genetic Analysis Technologies - Organ Transplants

ACT 772 (SB311) prohibits certain genetic sequencers and genetic analysis technologies produced by a foreign adversary beginning on October 1, 2025, requires all genetic sequencing data to be stored outside of foreign adversary countries, and prohibits a health benefit plan from providing coverage for a human organ transplant or post-transplant if the transplant operation is performed in or the human organ to be transplanted was procured in the People's Republic of China or another country known to have participated in forced organ harvesting.

Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities

ACT 636 (HB1653) transfers the licensing and regulation of psychiatric residential treatment facilities from the Child Welfare Agency Review Board to the Department of Human Services and sets standards for the licensing and regulation of psychiatric residential treatment facilities. The act also creates an exception to the moratorium regarding bed capacity and beds in a psychiatric residential treatment facility and amends the licensing of long-term care facility administrators to include psychiatric residential treatment facility administrators. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 16, 2025.

HEALTH

HEALTH CENTERS

Quality Standards for Accreditation - Facilities for Mammography

ACT 854 (HB1429) amends the law concerning the quality standards for accreditation of facilities for mammography.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Maternal Outcomes Management System

ACT 868 (HB1869) creates the Maternal Outcomes Management System within the Department of Health to organize maternal health resources, establish a maternal designation system, provide grants for birthing and delivery hospitals, establish the MOMS Care Connect call center in conjunction with the Arkansas Trauma Call Center to coordinate transfer of pregnant women between hospitals, and establish the Postpartum Support Hotline to proactively reach out to mothers post-delivery.

LICENSURE

Exception from Licensure as a Home Healthcare Service

ACT 849 (HB1585) provides an exception from licensure as a home healthcare service to an entity that provides solely therapy services that are reimbursed by Medicare Part A.

Massage Therapy Establishments

ACT 629 (HB1440) establishes requirements for registration for massage therapy establishments and repeals language related to massage therapy spas and massage therapy clinics.

Private Care Agency

ACT 853 (HB1439) removes the certification process of the Department of Human Services that the private care agency is providing home- and community-based health services from the requirements for licensure as a private care agency by the Department of Health.

LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

Informal Dispute Resolution Process

ACT 864 (HB1784) modifies the informal dispute resolution process for long-term care facilities.

Primary Instructor for Certified Nursing Assistants

ACT 105 (HB1214) amends the definition of "primary instructor" within the Long-Term Care Aide Training Act to include an annual requirement to attend an eight-hour class regarding updates to applicable laws and rules, best practices, and common issues encountered in long-term care facilities.

MEDICAID

Acquired Brain Injury - Waiver

ACT 348 (HB1583) mandates coverage for medically necessary treatment related to or resulting from an acquired brain injury beginning on and after January 1, 2026, and clarifies that the coverage is not subject to certain limitations or to a greater deductible, coinsurance, copayment, or out-of-pocket limit than any other benefit provided by a healthcare insurer under a health benefit plan. The act requires the Department of Human Services to apply for a waiver to provide coverage for medically necessary treatment related to or as a result of an acquired brain injury under the Arkansas Medicaid Program.

Administrative Fee for Respiratory Syncytial Virus Disease

ACT 634 (HB1619) sets the administrative fee under the Arkansas Medicaid Program for immunizations and monoclonal antibodies for respiratory syncytial virus disease and provides civil immunity for the administration of immunizations and monoclonal antibodies for respiratory syncytial virus disease.

Annual Cap for Diagnostic Laboratory Services

ACT 567 (SB348) amends the annual cap for diagnostic laboratory services within the Arkansas Medicaid Program. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

HEALTH**MEDICAID*****Arkansas Health and Opportunity for Me Program Changes***

ACT 774 (SB527) requires the Department of Human Services to establish and maintain a process to track pharmacy rebates obtained by participating health plans and ensure that an amount equal to the pharmacy rebates is remitted to the state on a quarterly basis. The act also requires an eligible individual enrolled in the Arkansas Health and Opportunity for Me Program to comply with federal and state work requirements subject to certain exemptions, increases the medical-loss ratio of an individual qualified health insurance plan in the program, and extends the sunset or expiration of the program.

Autism Spectrum Disorder Waiver - Qualified Professionals

ACT 386 (HB1586) amends the Medicaid waiver for autism spectrum disorder to clarify the number and type of qualified professionals required to diagnose autism spectrum disorder.

Certain Dental Service Reimbursement Rates Increased

ACT 1025 (SB347) requires the Arkansas Medicaid Program to increase reimbursement rates beginning September 1, 2025, for oral and maxillofacial surgeon's dental services, pediatric dental services, and dental services for adults with special needs. The act also requires the Arkansas Medicaid Program to increase the annual reimbursement cap for dental services for adults with special needs.

Continuous Glucose Monitors - Durable Medical Equipment

ACT 857 (HB1255) clarifies that a continuous glucose monitor covered under the Arkansas Medicaid Program may be obtained through a written order from an ordering practitioner for durable medical equipment provided by a durable medical equipment provider.

Continuous Glucose Monitors - Medicare Policy

ACT 623 (SB576) specifies that a person eligible for coverage of a continuous glucose monitor within the Arkansas Medicaid Program may have the presence of Type 1 diabetes or any other type of diabetes with the use of insulin in accordance with Medicare policy.

Corrective Action Plans and Administrative Reconsideration

ACT 635 (HB1622) modifies the definition of "adverse decision" under the Medicaid Fairness Act to include the imposition of corrective action plans and to provide for administrative reconsideration.

Coverage - Birthing Center

ACT 866 (HB1826) mandates coverage for delivery of a newborn in a licensed birthing center under a health benefit plan on and after January 1, 2026.

Coverage - Noninvasive Ventilators

ACT 513 (HB1321) prohibits step therapy and fail first protocols for noninvasive ventilators and mandates coverage for noninvasive ventilators by a health benefit plan.

High-Complexity Oral Care Reimbursement

ACT 568 (HB1241) requires the Arkansas Medicaid Program to reimburse dental schools that are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and academic medical centers for dental and anesthesia costs up to a certain amount for certain individuals with high-complexity oral health care.

Inpatient Treatment Services for Substance Use Disorder

ACT 632 (HB1559) requires the Department of Human Services to develop and submit an application for a demonstrative waiver to allow coverage for inpatient treatment of substance use disorder in facilities that qualify as institutions for mental diseases. The act also requires the department to report annually to the General Assembly on the status of the waiver application, the implementation progress, and the outcomes of the expanded coverage.

HEALTH**MEDICAID*****Maternal Health***

ACT 124 (HB1427) requires the Arkansas Medicaid Program to reimburse for prenatal, delivery, and postpartum services separately in lieu of a global payment, make presumptive eligibility determinations for pregnant women, provide coverage and reimbursement for self-measurement blood pressure monitoring services for pregnant and postpartum women, reimburse for medically necessary remote ultrasound procedures, and reimburse doulas and community health workers for home visitation related to prenatal care and postpartum care. The act also amends the statute of limitations for medical malpractice to state that if an alleged medical injury occurred during childbirth, the minor or his or her representative has until the minor's fifth birthday to commence a medical malpractice action. The act is identical to Act 140 of 2025.

ACT 140 (SB213) requires the Arkansas Medicaid Program to reimburse for prenatal, delivery, and postpartum services separately in lieu of a global payment, make presumptive eligibility determinations for pregnant women, provide coverage and reimbursement for self-measurement blood pressure monitoring services for pregnant and postpartum women, reimburse for medically necessary remote ultrasound procedures, and reimburse doulas and community health workers for home visitation related to prenatal care and postpartum care. The act also amends the statute of limitations for medical malpractice to state that if an alleged medical injury occurred during childbirth, the minor or his or her representative has until the minor's fifth birthday to commence a medical malpractice action. The act is identical to Act 124 of 2025.

Notices and Extended Appeals Period

ACT 515 (SB257) extends the appeal period for providers in the Arkansas Medicaid Program, requires comprehensive information in notices for adverse decisions, requires that third-party vendors and similar entities contracted to administer any part of the Medicaid appeals process comply with the requirements of the Medicaid Fairness Act, and mandates publication of all policies, procedures, or requirements.

Pain Relief Parity

ACT 960 (HB1186) requires the Department of Human Services to ensure that a non-opioid drug approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration with no therapeutic equivalent for the treatment or management of pain is not disadvantaged or discouraged with respect to coverage relative to any opioid or narcotic drug for the treatment or management of pain on the formulary and preferred drug list of the Arkansas Medicaid Program.

Physical Therapy in a Clinic-Based Setting

ACT 103 (SB77) requires the Arkansas Medicaid Program to reimburse for physical therapy provided in a clinic-based setting.

Physician Assistant as Primary Care Provider

ACT 482 (SB100) authorizes the Arkansas Medicaid Program to recognize a physician assistant as a primary care provider if authorized by the physician assistant's supervising physician. The act also requires certain reimbursement rates for physician assistants in the Arkansas Medicaid Program.

Provider-Led Organized Care - Abbreviated Independent Assessments

ACT 625 (HB1171) authorizes an abbreviated independent assessment for beneficiaries who have been previously approved for services through an independent assessment.

HEALTH

MEDICAID

Provider-Led Organized Care - Provider Communications

ACT 301 (SB222) clarifies that the Department of Human Services or a risk-based provider organization shall not require a direct service provider to separate communications about its network status from communications about open enrollment if certain criteria are met and shall not restrict direct service providers from responding to an individual's questions about open enrollment or network status if certain criteria are met. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after March 18, 2025.

Provider-Led Organized Care - Quality Rating System and Provider Network Directories

ACT 962 (HB1943) requires a basic quality rating system for each risk-based provider organization that is accessible online, requires a risk-based provider organization to provide access to provider network directories for its enrollees, and requires the Department of Human Services to have a dedicated beneficiary support system related to risk-based provider organizations. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.

Provider-Led Organized Care - Rates for Home- and Community-Based Services

ACT 1023 (HB1942) requires certain reimbursement rates for home- and community-based services provided through a risk-based provider organization based on a rate study.

Provider-Led Organized Care - Sedation Dentistry

ACT 967 (HB1840) includes sedation dentistry in the services that are covered by a risk-based provider organization.

Treatment of Severe Obesity

ACT 628 (HB1424) clarifies the treatment of severe obesity under the Arkansas Medicaid Program, including coverage for bariatric surgery, preoperative care, and post-operative care. The act excludes coverage for injectable drugs used to lower glucose levels or any other drugs prescribed for weight loss.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Processed Marijuana Products Testing

ACT 491 (SB305) requires all processed marijuana products to be tested after being fully processed and put in the form of a finished product suitable for packaging and requires the testing to include certain components and comply with the rules of the Department of Health.

Special Privilege Tax - Repeal Sunset

ACT 380 (SB219) repeals the sunset provision of the Arkansas Medical Marijuana Special Privilege Tax Act of 2017. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after March 20, 2025.

MENTAL HEALTH

Behavioral Health Loan Forgiveness Program

ACT 1022 (SB554) creates the Behavioral Health Loan Forgiveness Program to provide funds for education loan forgiveness to mental health professionals serving in behaviorally underserved communities in this state and establishes the Arkansas Behavioral Health Professional Student Loan Repayment Fund to provide funds for the program.

Green Envelope Program

ACT 531 (HB1798) establishes the Green Envelope Program to assist a law enforcement officer by making available a specially designed green envelope to hold a driver's essential documents for an individual who is diagnosed with a mental illness.

Involuntary Commitment for Impairment Due to Medical Condition

ACT 383 (HB1169) clarifies the admission criteria for an involuntary commitment to include a person who has a behavioral health impairment due to a medical condition and clarifies that a healthcare facility may immediately confine a person for seventy-two (72) hours if the person has a medical condition that causes a behavioral health impairment.

HEALTH

NURSES

Advanced Practice Registered Nurse - Death Pronouncement

ACT 862 (HB1734) clarifies that an advanced practice registered nurse may complete and sign the medical certificate of death and pronounce the death of a patient in a hospital setting if the advanced practice registered nurse is given authority by the medical staff of the hospital and a physician other than an emergency department physician is not immediately available.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurse - Delegation

ACT 959 (HB1131) authorizes an advanced practice registered nurse to delegate certain tasks to medical assistants and other unlicensed staff.

Certified Medication Assistant

ACT 265 (HB1182) replaces the defined term "medication assistive person" with "certified medication assistant" throughout the certification statutes and modifies the certification requirements, qualifications, and scope of practice for a certified medication assistant.

Certified Nurse Midwife

ACT 138 (HB1181) amends the full practice authority of a certified nurse midwife to allow admitting and discharging privileges from a licensed hospital and to allow a certified nurse midwife to complete, sign, and submit forms for a certificate of birth or a death certificate.

Prescriptive Authority - Stimulant Substitution

ACT 963 (HB1963) clarifies that an advanced practice registered nurse who prescribes a stimulant may substitute a therapeutically equivalent medication of the drug prescribed by the physician and requires the advanced practice registered nurse to notify the physician who originally prescribed the stimulant of the substitution.

PHARMACISTS AND PHARMACIES

Nonprofit, Tax-Exempt, or Governmentally Funded Hospitals

ACT 52 (SB58) removes the prohibition on a nonprofit, tax-exempt, or governmentally funded hospital holding a licensed pharmacy permit for the sale at retail of drugs and allows nonprofit, tax-exempt, and governmentally funded hospitals to have a retail pharmacy permit subject to certain requirements. The act also requires that a nonprofit, tax exempt, or governmentally funded hospital ensure that a patient who is eligible for the 340B Drug Pricing Program and who is seeking to obtain pharmaceutical supplies and services upon discharge from the hospital is aware that the patient can obtain pharmaceutical supplies and services from the pharmacy of his or her choice. The act also requires that the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy report monthly to the Legislative Council on pharmacy permits.

Outsourcing Facility of Legend Drugs and Controlled Substances

ACT 961 (HB1801) authorizes an outsourcing facility of legend drugs and controlled substances that compounds a product to sell the compounded product to retail pharmacies, healthcare facilities, or healthcare providers.

Prohibition on Limiting Prescription Medications to Limited Distribution Networks

ACT 630 (HB1531) regulates the ability of pharmaceutical manufacturers and pharmaceutical manufacturers for Medicaid to restrict or limit prescription medications to a limited distribution network of pharmacies. The act also prohibits a state government and public plan sponsor for a health benefit plan from paying for prescription medications from a pharmaceutical manufacturer or a pharmaceutical manufacturer for Medicaid who is noncompliant and allows the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy to fine a pharmaceutical manufacturer for noncompliance. The act requires that a pharmaceutical manufacturer or pharmaceutical manufacturer for Medicaid be in compliance with the act on or before September 1, 2026.

HEALTH

PHARMACISTS AND PHARMACIES

Right of Action for Violation of Maximum Allowable Costs List

ACT 990 (SB583) allows a pharmacy, pharmacist, or business providing pharmacy services to pursue a right of action for violations of the law concerning Maximum Allowable Costs Lists, recover attorney's fees and costs, and recover statutory damages. The act also provides that the right of action does not permit an action against any government, governmental agency, or governmental official.

PHYSICIANS

Credentialing Information

ACT 851 (HB1458) amends the definition of "credentialing information" to remove the requirement to provide the status of United States Drug Enforcement Administration certificates when the Arkansas State Medical Board is providing information to credentialing organizations.

Graduate of Foreign Medical School Provisional License

ACT 971 (SB601) creates an alternative pathway for a graduate of a foreign medical school to be provisionally licensed if he or she is offered full-time employment as a physician by a healthcare provider that operates in a medically underserved population in this state and meets additional criteria. The act also authorizes renewal of the provisional license and establishes a pathway for the graduate to obtain an active, unrestricted license.

Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

ACT 269 (SB119) establishes the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact in Arkansas, which allows physicians licensed in compact states to provide medical services in a compact state without becoming licensed in the state. The act provides that the Arkansas State Medical Board is the administrator of the compact for this state.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Cardiac Emergency Response Plans

ACT 352 (HB1398) requires schools to support, establish, and implement a cardiac emergency response plan beginning in the 2025-2026 school year that integrates nationally recognized elements.

Educational Information on Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes

ACT 801 (HB1580) requires a school district to provide certain educational information about Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes if the school district provides educational information on immunizations, infectious diseases, medications, or other school health issues to parents and guardians of students in kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12).

Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention - Professional Development

ACT 247 (SB226) modifies the requirements for professional development in school districts related to sudden cardiac arrest to include additional persons who are required to complete the training and to also require training to maintain Basic Life Support certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillation.

STUDENTS

Epinephrine - Types Allowed for Use

ACT 245 (HB1166) adds epinephrine nasal spray to the types of epinephrine allowed for use in elementary and secondary schools.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS - PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

Title 20

ACT 176 (HB1360) makes technical corrections recommended by the Arkansas Code Revision Commission to Title 20 of the Arkansas Code.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

AERONAUTICS AND AVIATION

Unmanned Aircraft System - Lawful Image Capturing

ACT 597 (HB1148) creates the criminal offenses of unlawful use of an unmanned aircraft system related to images and unlawful possession, disclosure, display, distribution, or use of an image captured by an unmanned aircraft system. The act creates a civil action for damages caused by a violation of the criminal offenses related to unmanned aircraft systems and establishes a list of conduct that constitutes the lawful capture of an image using an unmanned aircraft system.

Vertiports - Design - Access

ACT 883 (HB1976) requires that a vertiport design comply with requirements set forth by the Federal Aviation Administration and that a vertiport owner or operator submit a vertiport layout plan to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration for approval. The act prohibits a political subdivision from using its zoning and land use authority to grant or permit an exclusive right to one (1) or more vertiport owners or operators and requires that a political subdivision use its zoning and land use authority to promote reasonable access to advanced air mobility operators and public-use vertiports within the jurisdiction of the political subdivision.

HIGHWAY COMMISSION

Bonding Requirements for Construction Projects

ACT 217 (SB202) amends the bonding requirements for a contractor who has successfully bid on a construction project of the State Highway Commission.

Construction Manager-General Contractor Method of Procurement Program

ACT 328 (HB1605) makes the Construction Manager-General Contractor Method of Procurement Program permanent for the State Highway Commission and repeals the requirement for an independent consultant study of the Construction Manager-General Contractor Method of Procurement.

PORTS

Membership in Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System

ACT 311 (HB1068) amends the membership of the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System to include employees of a metropolitan port authority.

RAILROADS

Discharge of Firearms or Throwing Objects at a Railroad or Street Car

ACT 27 (SB16) changes the classification of the offense of discharge of firearms or throwing objects at a railroad or street car to a Class A misdemeanor and provides that the offense is committed when the person acts knowingly.

Reports Involving Railroad Fatalities

ACT 931 (SB397) requires a custodian of records to maintain a public record concerning a railroad fatality in a manner that ensures the confidentiality of the personal information of the railroad crew involved in the fatality and requires the custodian to redact the personal information of the railroad crew if the public record is disclosed publicly, except in certain circumstances.

Tampering with Rail Infrastructure - Offense

ACT 528 (HB1757) creates the offense of tampering with rail infrastructure as a Class D felony.

SAFETY

Mobile Work Zones - Creation - Penalties

ACT 327 (HB1596) allows the creation and designation of a mobile work zone on a highway, street, or road where construction, reconstruction, maintenance, or other work is being performed for a limited period of time. The act also allows additional fines and penalties to be assessed for a moving traffic violation in a mobile work zone in certain circumstances.

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

SAFETY

Motor Vehicle Accident Reports

ACT 672 (HB1336) increases the fee charged for the cost of making copies of motor vehicle accident reports and copies of traffic violation records for a person other than a person who was involved in the accident for which the report was generated. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Operation of a Motor Vehicle with a Modified Bumper - Offense

ACT 492 (SB411) creates the offense of operation of a motor vehicle with a modified bumper.

Use of Warning Lights by Roadway Construction or Maintenance Vehicles

ACT 209 (HB1475) authorizes the use of amber, white, green, or any combination of amber, white, and green oscillating, flashing, or rotating emergency or warning lights on roadway construction or maintenance vehicles.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS - TRANSPORTATION

Title 27

ACT 180 (HB1364) makes technical corrections recommended by the Arkansas Code Revision Commission to Title 27 of the Arkansas Code.

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Annual Project Review

ACT 704 (SB562) repeals the requirement for the Office of Internal Audit to conduct an annual project review of the Arkansas Department of Transportation.

Relocation of Utility Facilities - Penalties - Rules

ACT 699 (SB492) creates a process by which a utility facility located on a public transportation facility may be removed, relocated, or adjusted. The act provides the requirements for notice to a utility before the relocation of a utility facility, for an agreement between the Department of Transportation and a utility for the relocation of a utility facility, and for a utility when a utility facility is relocated. The act creates a civil penalty for a utility that fails to meet the requirements in the department's rules or in the agreement between the department and the utility and creates a notice and appeals process for the civil penalty. The act also creates standards for the creation of rules concerning coordination and agreements between the department and a utility related to the relocation of a utility facility.

Surplus Property - Market Value Determination

ACT 210 (HB1486) requires the market value determination of property declared surplus by the State Highway Commission to be determined by two (2) certified or licensed appraisers.

WEIGHT AND LOAD LIMITS AND PERMITS

Permit for Special Cargo - Farm Machinery Equipment Hauler

ACT 700 (SB496) amends the law concerning the issuance of a special permit by the State Highway Commission authorizing the movement of a vehicle hauling farm machinery equipment that exceeds the maximum width allowed by law.

Transport of Manufactured Homes

ACT 256 (SB253) amends the definition of a "manufactured home unit" to exclude a structure constructed for use as an office or classroom for the purpose of size and load regulations.

IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

LEVEE DISTRICTS

Collection of Taxes and Assessments

ACT 780 (SB500) allows a levee district created by an act of the General Assembly to have taxes and assessments collected by the county collector in the same manner as other assessments and property taxes.

IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

Board Meetings

ACT 422 (SB424) requires a municipal improvement district board to provide an agenda to property owners and allow public comment on agenda items for special and regular meetings by the board.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

ACCESSIBILITY

Disability Parking Permits

ACT 98 (HB1138) authorizes an advanced practice registered nurse, a physician assistant, or a physical therapist to certify that a patient is a person with a disability for the purposes of the Access to Parking for Persons with Disabilities Act. The act also amends the signature authority of an advanced practice registered nurse and a physician assistant to match the certification language for a physical therapist for a patient who has a disability.

Emotional Support Animals - Private Property

ACT 819 (HB1893) authorizes a private property owner or business owner to ban an emotional support animal from the private property or the business premises and regulates liability on private property related to emotional support animals.

Public Lodging - Bed Height Requirement

ACT 855 (HB1428) requires new lodging establishments to provide a bed that meets certain height requirements in mobility accessible rooms and requires existing lodging establishments to meet the bed height requirement when the mobility accessible rooms require an upgrade or have met the end of their life cycle.

FINANCES

Achieving a Better Life Experience Program - Disability Onset Age

ACT 875 (HB1063) increases the disability onset age to forty-six (46) years of age for purposes of the Achieving a Better Life Experience Program. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.

RESPECTFUL LANGUAGE

Blue Envelope Program

ACT 16 (HB1046) establishes a Blue Envelope Program to ease communication between an individual with autism spectrum disorder and law enforcement during a motor vehicle-related interaction and directs the Department of Finance and Administration to develop and make available a specially designed blue envelope to hold essential documents.

INSURANCE

AGENTS, ADJUSTERS, AND CONSULTANTS

Miscellaneous Prohibited Practices

ACT 23 (SB76) includes a surplus lines broker in various prohibited practices under the Arkansas Insurance Code and allows a licensed property or casualty agent or broker or surplus lines broker to charge a reasonable fee to an insured according to the insurer's rate and rule filings with the State Insurance Department subject to certain conditions and limitations. The act clarifies that if a licensed property or casualty agent or broker refers a risk to a surplus lines broker, then the limitation on the aggregate sum of the fee does not apply.

INSURANCE**CLAIMS*****Ambulance Services***

ACT 836 (HB1863) clarifies the payment process for ambulance services, requires contracting entities to pay claims for authorized ambulance services within thirty (30) days of receipt unless there is evidence of fraud or misrepresentation, and requires the Arkansas Ambulance Association to collect rates approved or contracted between ambulance providers and local government entities on or after July 1, 2025, and submit the information annually to the Insurance Commissioner. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 17, 2025.

Disclosures

ACT 651 (HB1771) amends the law concerning disclosures to policyholders to require an insurer to report information upon request of a policyholder with more than fifty (50) insured employees.

Gold Card Program

ACT 511 (HB1301) defines "gold card program" for purposes of prior authorization transparency, changes the process for a healthcare provider to obtain an initial exemption under the gold card program, revises the process for obtaining an exemption based on utilizing prospective data, and implements a process for data collection for the gold card program.

Ground Ambulance Services - Minimum Allowable Reimbursement Rates

ACT 867 (HB1850) clarifies the minimum allowable reimbursement rates for ground ambulance services under health benefit plans and specifies that the reimbursement rate for both in-network and out-of-network ground ambulance service providers is based on the rates approved or contracted between the ambulance service provider and the local government entity. The act also provides for the minimum allowable reimbursement if no rates are set. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 17, 2025.

Notice of Downcode

ACT 136 (HB1287) defines "downcode" for purposes of healthcare contracting as changing a claim to a healthcare service that has a lower cost than the service originally submitted or billed by the healthcare provider. The act also requires a contracting entity to provide notification to a healthcare provider when the contracting entity downcodes a claim for healthcare services to enable the healthcare provider an opportunity to appeal the downcode.

Out-of-Network Healthcare Provider - Payment

ACT 307 (HB1298) clarifies that payment of benefits for out-of-network healthcare providers under a health benefit plan is to be made directly to the out-of-network healthcare provider and not paid to the patient.

Pharmacy

ACT 350 (HB1620) regulates the processing and payment of pharmacy claims, amends the Arkansas Pharmacy Audit Bill of Rights to exclude the Arkansas Medicaid Program and provide definitions, amends the Arkansas Pharmacy Benefits Manager Licensure Act to provide definitions, establishes procedures for the processing and payment of pharmacy claims, and sets penalties for pharmaceutical manufacturers for violations of clean claim payments by the pharmaceutical manufacturer's vendor or intermediary. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.

INSURANCE**CLAIMS*****Prior Authorizations***

ACT 510 (HB1300) establishes the Prior Authorization Transparency Act Trust Fund to assist the State Insurance Department with enforcement of the law concerning prior authorization transparency and provides for the imposition of fines for violators of the Prior Authorization Transparency Act. The act clarifies the definition of "prior authorization" and requires a utilization review entity to disclose any other restriction, limitation, or requirement that may be applicable if a prior authorization is not required for the healthcare service.

Retroactive Payments

ACT 423 (HB1288) requires a healthcare insurer to make certain retroactive payments to a provider upon receipt of the physician's credentialing information from the Centralized Credentials Verification Services of the Arkansas State Medical Board. The act provides that it does not apply to the Arkansas Medicaid Program.

COMPANIES AND ASSOCIATIONS***Captive Insurer***

ACT 554 (SB237) amends the licensing requirements and regulations of captive insurers for formation and redomestication of an existing foreign captive insurer, lowers the required premium tax amounts, and provides a fine for violations.

Foreign Reciprocal Insurer - Hospital and Medical Service Corporation

ACT 349 (HB1595) removes the requirement that the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Insurance Plan maintain a physical office in the state, requires foreign reciprocal insurers to post a bond with the Insurance Commissioner, extends the timeframe for an examination of a hospital and medical service corporation, allows for service of process consistent with Rule 4 of the Arkansas Rules of Civil Procedure, and repeals a state program that was established to provide health insurance coverage for an individual who is considered uninsurable due to a preexisting condition.

COVERAGE AND BENEFITS***Acquired Brain Injury***

ACT 348 (HB1583) mandates coverage for medically necessary treatment related to or resulting from an acquired brain injury beginning on and after January 1, 2026, and clarifies that the coverage is not subject to certain limitations or to a greater deductible, coinsurance, copayment, or out-of-pocket limit than any other benefit provided by a healthcare insurer under a health benefit plan. The act requires the Department of Human Services to apply for a waiver to provide coverage for medically necessary treatment related to or as a result of an acquired brain injury under the Arkansas Medicaid Program.

Any Willing Provider Laws - Pharmacists

ACT 425 (SB103) requires pharmacy benefits managers to accept any pharmacy or pharmacist willing to accept relevant and reasonable terms of participation according to the any willing provider laws and the Patient Protection Act of 1995. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 3, 2025.

Birthing Center

ACT 866 (HB1826) mandates coverage for delivery of a newborn in a licensed birthing center under a health benefit plan on and after January 1, 2026.

Breast Reconstruction Surgeries - Minimum Reimbursement

ACT 424 (SB83) mandates coverage for all modalities, types, and techniques of a healthcare service provided for breast reconstruction surgeries that are determined to be the best course of treatment by a healthcare professional, consistent with prevailing medical standards, and in consultation with the patient under a health benefit plan on and after January 1, 2026. The act also requires prior authorization for breast reconstruction surgeries, establishes a minimum reimbursement rate for breast reconstruction surgeries, establishes penalties for late payment or nonpayment, and prohibits waiver of any provisions of the act.

INSURANCE

COVERAGE AND BENEFITS

Breastfeeding and Lactation Consultant Services

ACT 627 (HB1333) mandates coverage for breastfeeding and lactation consultant services in an outpatient setting under a health benefit plan on and after January 1, 2026, and provides that the coverage is not subject to an annual deductible, copayment, or coinsurance limit and does not diminish or limit benefits otherwise allowable under a health benefit plan.

Examinations for Breast Cancer

ACT 268 (HB1309) clarifies the cost-sharing requirements for examinations for breast cancer.

Genetic Testing - Evidence-Based Cancer Imaging

ACT 860 (HB1079) mandates coverage for genetic testing for an inherited gene mutation under a health benefit plan on and after January 1, 2026, for an individual with a personal or family history of cancer in certain circumstances. The act mandates coverage for evidence-based cancer imaging under a health benefit plan on and after January 1, 2026, in certain circumstances.

IVF Includes Restorative Reproductive Medicine

ACT 859 (HB1142) modifies the insurance coverage of in vitro fertilization to include restorative reproductive medicine and prohibits discrimination against a healthcare provider that does not or declines to participate or facilitate in assisted reproductive technology. The act also requires all Title X-funded facilities in the state to include fertility awareness-based methods as part of covered family planning and reproductive health services and requires the Department of Health to integrate information about fertility awareness-based methods into existing public health programs.

Lung Cancer Screenings

ACT 390 (HB1316) mandates coverage for lung cancer screenings and follow-up healthcare services under a health benefit plan on and after January 1, 2026.

Mammograms and Breast Ultrasounds

ACT 553 (SB123) provides a definition for "supplemental breast examination" and prohibits a healthcare insurer from imposing any cost-sharing requirements for diagnostic breast examinations, examinations for breast cancer, and supplemental breast examinations.

Mastectomies

ACT 561 (HB1859) expands the requirements for coverage for mastectomies to include medical and surgical benefits for artificial or biological mesh used to support tissue and nerve grafts to preserve or restore nerve function if the service is performed at a licensed facility. The act states that the law concerning mastectomies expires on June 30, 2031, unless extended by the General Assembly.

Mental Health Crisis - Prior Authorization Prohibited

ACT 389 (HB1275) prohibits prior authorizations or precertification by a health benefit plan for healthcare services provided by a healthcare provider for the treatment of a mental health crisis.

Mobile Units

ACT 556 (HB1296) mandates coverage under a health benefit plan for healthcare services provided in mobile units, billed by a healthcare provider using the place-of-service code designated for a mobile unit, and otherwise covered by the healthcare insurer in another place of service and at the same cost-sharing requirements.

Noninvasive Ventilators

ACT 513 (HB1321) prohibits step therapy and fail first protocols for noninvasive ventilators and mandates coverage for noninvasive ventilators by a health benefit plan.

INSURANCE**COVERAGE AND BENEFITS*****Prohibition on Coverage of Certain Human Organ Transplants and Post-Transplants***

ACT 772 (SB311) prohibits a health benefit plan from providing coverage for a human organ transplant or post-transplant if the transplant operation is performed in or the human organ to be transplanted was procured in the People's Republic of China or another country known to have participated in forced organ harvesting. The act also prohibits certain genetic sequencers and genetic analysis technologies produced by a foreign adversary beginning on October 1, 2025, and requires all genetic sequencing data to be stored outside of foreign adversary countries.

Severe Obesity Treatments

ACT 628 (HB1424) mandates coverage for the treatment of diseases and conditions caused by severe obesity under a health benefit plan on and after January 1, 2026, and establishes requirements for a covered person to qualify for coverage. The act limits coverage to an individual who is at least eighteen (18) years of age and has completed a preoperative period of no more than three (3) months of counseling and education. The act excludes coverage for injectable drugs used to lower glucose levels or any other drugs prescribed for weight loss.

Vision Benefit Manager

ACT 142 (HB1353) regulates vision benefit managers and the manner in which an insurer, vision benefit manager, vision care plan, or vision care discount plan identifies participating vision care providers and regulates the advertising of an insurer, vision benefit manager, vision care plan, or vision care discount plan. The act prohibits an insurer, vision benefit manager, vision care plan, or vision care discount plan from steering enrollees to or limiting an enrollees' choice of vision care provider; incentivizing or persuading an enrollee to obtain services or materials at a particular participating vision care provider, at a retail establishment affiliated with the insurer, vision benefit manager, vision care plan, or vision care discount plan, or at any internet or virtual provider or retailer affiliated with the vision plan; and reimbursing a vision care provider a different amount for covered services or covered materials in certain circumstances. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.

HEALTH INSURANCE***Any Willing Provider Laws - Pharmacies***

ACT 310 (HB1587) amends the any willing provider laws and the Patient Protection Act of 1995 to include pharmacies.

Breast Reconstruction Surgeries

ACT 424 (SB83) mandates coverage for all modalities, types, and techniques of a healthcare service provided for breast reconstruction surgeries that are determined to be the best course of treatment by a healthcare professional, consistent with prevailing medical standards, and in consultation with the patient under a health benefit plan on and after January 1, 2026. The act also requires prior authorization for breast reconstruction surgeries, establishes a minimum reimbursement rate for breast reconstruction surgeries, establishes penalties for late payment or nonpayment, and prohibits waiver of any provisions of the act.

Cost Sharing - Examinations for Breast Cancer

ACT 268 (HB1309) clarifies the cost-sharing requirements for examinations for breast cancer.

Cost-Sharing Requirements - Breast Examinations

ACT 553 (SB123) provides a definition for "supplemental breast examination" and prohibits a healthcare insurer from imposing any cost-sharing requirements for diagnostic breast examinations, examinations for breast cancer, and supplemental breast examinations.

INSURANCE

HEALTH INSURANCE

Firefighter Retirees - Local Government

ACT 415 (HB1313) expands health benefit coverage for eligible firefighter retirees of municipalities and counties who are eligible to retire with full retirement benefits but are not eligible for Medicare enrollment until the eligible firefighter retiree is a Medicare-eligible person.

Prior Authorization - Adverse Determination Notice

ACT 638 (HB1700) clarifies the process for an adverse determination notice to exclude the name of the reviewing physician and to clarify the written notice process by a utilization review entity to a subscriber under the Prior Authorization Transparency Act.

State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program - Retirees

ACT 451 (HB1327) amends the law concerning the eligibility of certain retired employees under the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program, clarifies and streamlines the management options of retiree health benefits, incorporates the new group Medicare Advantage plan option, establishes clear and uniform criteria for retirement benefits eligibility, updates statutory language to reflect multiple retirement plan options, and provides transparent guidelines for all stakeholders.

HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE

Deductibles

ACT 246 (SB48) requires an insurer to disclose all deductibles included under a policy for owner-occupied residential property insurance policies in a clear and conspicuous manner on the policy declaration page or notice of renewal of the policy, including whether the insurance policy contains separate deductible levels by peril.

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

Home Inspections - Policy Approval

ACT 974 (HB1625) allows a licensed home inspector to obtain a professional liability insurance policy or an errors and omissions insurance policy, if that policy has been approved by the State Insurance Department, to cover the home inspections performed by the home inspector.

Reporting Requirements

ACT 957 (SB483) repeals reporting requirements for the State Insurance Department concerning health insurance fraud, the assessment and user fee under the Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace, the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Insurance Plan, and servicing carriers. The act also repeals the requirement for quarterly reports for the State Securities Department and revises reporting requirements for the State Insurance Department regarding craniofacial coverage to provide that the report is submitted upon the request of a cochair of the House Committee on Insurance and Commerce or a cochair of the Senate Committee on Insurance and Commerce.

Strengthen Arkansas Homes Program

ACT 427 (SB366) creates the Strengthen Arkansas Homes Program Fund and establishes the Strengthen Arkansas Homes Program within the State Insurance Department to provide financial grants to real property owners and nonprofit organizations to assist with and promote the mitigation of losses to insurable dwellings due to catastrophic wind events. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.

LIFE INSURANCE AND ANNUITIES

Cash Surrender Value - Interest

ACT 958 (SB519) amends the standard nonforfeiture law for life insurance to regulate the payment of interest on deferred payment of any cash surrender value on and after January 1, 2026, according to the terms of the policy if payment is not made within a certain time period and requires the policy death benefit to remain in full force and effect until payment is made.

INSURANCE

LIFE INSURANCE AND ANNUITIES

Cash Surrender Value - Payment

ACT 391 (HB1488) amends the standard nonforfeiture law for life insurance, requires an insurer to pay interest on a deferred payment of any cash surrender value under a life insurance policy at the prime rate as published in the Wall Street Journal on the day that the demand is made, and requires the policy death benefit to remain in full force and effect until payment is made.

PATIENTS' RIGHTS AND ISSUES

Claims Data

ACT 651 (HB1771) amends the law concerning disclosures to policyholders to require an insurer to report information upon request of a policyholder with more than fifty (50) insured employees.

Notice of Premium Increase

ACT 22 (SB70) requires an insurer to provide notice of a premium increase at least sixty (60) days before the effective date of a premium increase of twenty-five percent (25%) or more.

Vision Care Providers

ACT 142 (HB1353) regulates vision benefit managers and the manner in which an insurer, vision benefit manager, vision care plan, or vision care discount plan identifies participating vision care providers and regulates the advertising of an insurer, vision benefit manager, vision care plan, or vision care discount plan. The act prohibits an insurer, vision benefit manager, vision care plan, or vision care discount plan from steering enrollees to or limiting an enrollees' choice of vision care provider; incentivizing or persuading an enrollee to obtain services or materials at a particular participating vision care provider, at a retail establishment affiliated with the insurer, vision benefit manager, vision care plan, or vision care discount plan, or at any internet or virtual provider or retailer affiliated with the vision plan; and reimbursing a vision care provider a different amount for covered services or covered materials in certain circumstances. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.

PAYMENTS, PROCEEDS, AND SETTLEMENTS

Ambulance Services - Payments

ACT 836 (HB1863) clarifies the payment process for ambulance services, requires contracting entities to pay claims for authorized ambulance services within thirty (30) days of receipt unless there is evidence of fraud or misrepresentation, and requires the Arkansas Ambulance Association to collect rates approved or contracted between ambulance providers and local government entities on or after July 1, 2025, and submit the information annually to the Insurance Commissioner. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 17, 2025.

Ambulance Services - Refusal to Transport

ACT 199 (HB1286) clarifies that an ambulance service may receive reimbursement for treating a patient in place when the patient refuses to be transported.

Credentialing Information - Retroactive Payments

ACT 423 (HB1288) requires a healthcare insurer to make certain retroactive payments to a provider upon receipt of the physician's credentialing information from the Centralized Credentials Verification Services of the Arkansas State Medical Board. The act provides that it does not apply to the Arkansas Medicaid Program.

Drug Reimbursement Process - Medical Benefit

ACT 570 (HB1703) establishes a drug reimbursement process under a medical provision of a health benefit plan to provide an administrative appeal procedure to allow a healthcare provider to challenge the reimbursement for a specific drug as being below the healthcare provider's drug acquisition cost.

INSURANCE**PAYMENTS, PROCEEDS, AND SETTLEMENTS*****Ground Ambulance Services***

ACT 867 (HB1850) clarifies the minimum allowable reimbursement rates for ground ambulance services under health benefit plans and specifies that the reimbursement rate for both in-network and out-of-network ground ambulance service providers is based on the rates approved or contracted between the ambulance service provider and the local government entity. The act also provides for the minimum allowable reimbursement if no rates are set. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 17, 2025.

Medical Audit

ACT 512 (HB1314) defines the terms to be used under a medical audit, provides a notification process to be used for a medical audit, and clarifies recoupment and adjudication procedures to be used for a medical audit. The act excludes a pharmacy that is subject to the Arkansas Pharmacy Audit Bill of Rights.

Minimum Reimbursement - Breast Reconstruction Surgery

ACT 424 (SB83) mandates coverage for all modalities, types, and techniques of a healthcare service provided for breast reconstruction surgeries that are determined to be the best course of treatment by a healthcare professional, consistent with prevailing medical standards, and in consultation with the patient under a health benefit plan on and after January 1, 2026. The act also requires prior authorization for breast reconstruction surgeries, establishes a minimum reimbursement rate for breast reconstruction surgeries, establishes penalties for late payment or nonpayment, and prohibits waiver of any provisions of the act.

Out-of-Network Healthcare Provider

ACT 307 (HB1298) clarifies that payment of benefits for out-of-network healthcare providers under a health benefit plan is to be made directly to the out-of-network healthcare provider and not paid to the patient.

PHARMACIES AND PHARMACISTS***Any Willing Provider Laws***

ACT 425 (SB103) requires pharmacy benefits managers to accept any pharmacy or pharmacist willing to accept relevant and reasonable terms of participation according to the any willing provider laws and the Patient Protection Act of 1995. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 3, 2025.

Pharmacy Benefits Manager - Contracts

ACT 775 (SB544) adds definitions related to pharmacy benefits managers, requires a pharmacy benefits manager to provide certain information during contract negotiations to allow for informed healthcare contracting decisions, provides for sixty days' notice for opt-out contracts, and revises the penalties available under the Arkansas Pharmacy Benefits Manager Licensure Act for an underpayment violation.

Pharmacy Benefits Manager - Pharmacy Permits

ACT 624 (HB1150) prohibits a pharmacy benefits manager from obtaining a pharmacy permit for the retail sale of drugs or medicines in this state, requires the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy to revoke or not renew a permit of an entity that violates the prohibition under the section, and allows for the board to issue a limited use permit for certain rare, orphan, or limited distribution drugs that are otherwise unavailable in the market to a patient or a pharmacy that would otherwise be prohibited under the section. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.

Pharmacy Benefits Manager - Reporting Requirements

ACT 633 (HB1602) adds definitions to the law concerning pharmacy benefits manager licensure, establishes an initial application fee and a renewal application fee for a license as a pharmacy benefits manager, and creates reporting requirements for pharmacy benefits managers.

INSURANCE

POLICIES

Notice of Deductibles

ACT 246 (SB48) requires an insurer to disclose all deductibles included under a policy for owner-occupied residential property insurance policies in a clear and conspicuous manner on the policy declaration page or notice of renewal of the policy, including whether the insurance policy contains separate deductible levels by peril.

PREMIUMS AND CHARGES

Breast Examinations

ACT 553 (SB123) provides a definition for "supplemental breast examination" and prohibits a healthcare insurer from imposing any cost-sharing requirements for diagnostic breast examinations, examinations for breast cancer, and supplemental breast examinations.

Breastfeeding and Lactation Consultant Services - Cost-Sharing Requirements

ACT 627 (HB1333) mandates coverage for breastfeeding and lactation consultant services in an outpatient setting under a health benefit plan on and after January 1, 2026, and provides that the coverage is not subject to an annual deductible, copayment, or coinsurance limit and does not diminish or limit benefits otherwise allowable under a health benefit plan.

Mobile Units - Cost-Sharing Requirements

ACT 556 (HB1296) mandates coverage under a health benefit plan for healthcare services provided in mobile units, billed by a healthcare provider using the place-of-service code designated for a mobile unit, and otherwise covered by the healthcare insurer in another place of service and at the same cost-sharing requirements.

Notice of Increase

ACT 22 (SB70) requires an insurer to provide notice of a premium increase at least sixty (60) days before the effective date of a premium increase of twenty-five percent (25%) or more.

REGULATION

Captive Insurer

ACT 554 (SB237) amends the licensing requirements and regulations of captive insurers for formation and redomestication of an existing foreign captive insurer, lowers the required premium tax amounts, and provides a fine for violations.

Crisis Stabilization Units

ACT 626 (HB1320) prohibits limits of utilization criteria under the Behavioral Health Crisis Intervention Protocol Act of 2017, amends the definition of "healthcare provider" under the Patient Protection Act of 1995 and the any willing provider laws to add crisis stabilization units, regulates crisis stabilization units and healthcare insurers, and prohibits certain prior authorizations for crisis stabilization units unless authorized by the Insurance Commissioner.

General Omnibus Amendment

ACT 349 (HB1595) removes the requirement that the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Insurance Plan maintain a physical office in the state, requires foreign reciprocal insurers to post a bond with the Insurance Commissioner, extends the timeframe for an examination of a hospital and medical service corporation, allows for service of process consistent with Rule 4 of the Arkansas Rules of Civil Procedure, and repeals a state program that was established to provide health insurance coverage for an individual who is considered uninsurable due to a preexisting condition.

Ground Ambulance Services - Reimbursement Rates

ACT 867 (HB1850) clarifies the minimum allowable reimbursement rates for ground ambulance services under health benefit plans and specifies that the reimbursement rate for both in-network and out-of-network ground ambulance service providers is based on the rates approved or contracted between the ambulance service provider and the local government entity. The act also provides for the minimum allowable reimbursement if no rates are set. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 17, 2025.

INSURANCE
REGULATION

Insurance Holding Company

ACT 261 (SB236) provides group capital calculation, liquidity stress testing, and receivership provisions for insurance holding companies as an accreditation requirement effective January 1, 2026.

Online Marketplace Guarantees

ACT 426 (SB329) establishes a legal framework within which an online marketplace or its affiliate may offer or sell an online marketplace guarantee and places the risk on the online marketplace provider rather than the consumer.

Pharmacy Benefits Manager

ACT 514 (SB104) regulates the business practices of healthcare payors and pharmacy benefits managers to prohibit the use of carve-out networks or ghost networks and clarifies unfair and deceptive trade practices by a pharmacy benefits manager. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 10, 2025.

Pharmacy Benefits Manager - Fees

ACT 633 (HB1602) adds definitions to the law concerning pharmacy benefits manager licensure, establishes an initial application fee and a renewal application fee for a license as a pharmacy benefits manager, and creates reporting requirements for pharmacy benefits managers.

Pharmacy Services Administrative Organization

ACT 773 (SB475) regulates pharmacy services administrative organizations, requires registration of a pharmacy services administrative organization with the Insurance Commissioner, establishes notice and disclosure requirements and appeal procedures, and provides for enforcement by the commissioner for violations.

Prior Authorization - Gold Card Program

ACT 511 (HB1301) defines "gold card program" for purposes of prior authorization transparency, changes the process for a healthcare provider to obtain an initial exemption under the gold card program, revises the process for obtaining an exemption based on utilizing prospective data, and implements a process for data collection for the gold card program.

Strengthen Arkansas Homes Program

ACT 427 (SB366) creates the Strengthen Arkansas Homes Program Fund and establishes the Strengthen Arkansas Homes Program within the State Insurance Department to provide financial grants to real property owners and nonprofit organizations to assist with and promote the mitigation of losses to insurable dwellings due to catastrophic wind events. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.

Transportation Benefit Managers

ACT 836 (HB1863) clarifies the payment process for ambulance services, requires contracting entities to pay claims for authorized ambulance services within thirty (30) days of receipt unless there is evidence of fraud or misrepresentation, and requires the Arkansas Ambulance Association to collect rates approved or contracted between ambulance providers and local government entities on or after July 1, 2025, and submit the information annually to the Insurance Commissioner. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 17, 2025.

INSURANCE REGULATION

Vision Benefit Manager

ACT 142 (HB1353) regulates vision benefit managers and the manner in which an insurer, vision benefit manager, vision care plan, or vision care discount plan identifies participating vision care providers and regulates the advertising of an insurer, vision benefit manager, vision care plan, or vision care discount plan. The act prohibits an insurer, vision benefit manager, vision care plan, or vision care discount plan from steering enrollees to or limiting an enrollees' choice of vision care provider; incentivizing or persuading an enrollee to obtain services or materials at a particular participating vision care provider, at a retail establishment affiliated with the insurer, vision benefit manager, vision care plan, or vision care discount plan, or at any internet or virtual provider or retailer affiliated with the vision plan; and reimbursing a vision care provider a different amount for covered services or covered materials in certain circumstances. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.

SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Public School Employee Health Benefit Advisory Commission

ACT 143 (SB134) amends the frequency of meetings of the Public School Employee Health Benefit Advisory Commission and the State Employee Health Benefit Advisory Commission and reduces the stipend for members of the commissions who are not active employees.

Public School Employee Health Benefit Advisory Commission - Stipend

ACT 756 (SB508) amends Acts 2025, No. 143, concerning the frequency of payment of a stipend for members of the Public School Employee Health Benefit Advisory Commission and the State Employee Health Benefit Advisory Commission.

State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program

ACT 234 (SB150) amends the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program to allow the Director of the Employee Benefits Division to cooperate with the United States Government in matters pertaining to federally funded programs related to the Employee Benefits Division, including Medicare.

State Captive Insurance Program

ACT 560 (HB1821) allows for the creation of a captive insurance company by the State of Arkansas to provide property insurance for public schools, state-supported institutions of higher education, and state-owned property. The act creates the Office of Property Risk within the Department of Transformation and Shared Services, amends the Public Elementary and Secondary School Insurance Act to remove property insurance risks, revises the Employee Benefits Division Oversight Subcommittee to include all state insurance programs, amends the Arkansas Multi-Agency Insurance Trust Fund Act to remove property insurance risks, combines public elementary and secondary schools with state-supported institutions of higher education and state-owned property under a single program for property insurance purposes, creates the State Captive Insurance Program Act, and prohibits the use of public adjusting in property insurance claims. The act is identical to Act 779 of 2025. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 14, 2025.

INSURANCE

SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS

State Captive Insurance Program

ACT 779 (SB481) allows for the creation of a captive insurance company by the State of Arkansas to provide property insurance for public schools, state-supported institutions of higher education, and state-owned property. The act creates the Office of Property Risk within the Department of Transformation and Shared Services, amends the Public Elementary and Secondary School Insurance Act to remove property insurance risks, revises the Employee Benefits Division Oversight Subcommittee to include all state insurance programs, amends the Arkansas Multi-Agency Insurance Trust Fund Act to remove property insurance risks, combines public elementary and secondary schools with state-supported institutions of higher education and state-owned property under a single program for property insurance purposes, creates the State Captive Insurance Program Act, and prohibits the use of public adjusting in property insurance claims. The act is identical to Act 560 of 2025. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 17, 2025.

SURPLUS LINES

Motor Vehicle Insurance

ACT 345 (SB276) clarifies that surplus lines insurance is acceptable coverage for financial responsibility of motor vehicle insurance coverage if the surplus lines insurer is eligible to do business in Arkansas.

Reasonable Fee

ACT 23 (SB76) includes a surplus lines broker in various prohibited practices under the Arkansas Insurance Code and allows a licensed property or casualty agent or broker or surplus lines broker to charge a reasonable fee to an insured according to the insurer's rate and rule filings with the State Insurance Department subject to certain conditions and limitations. The act clarifies that if a licensed property or casualty agent or broker refers a risk to a surplus lines broker, then the limitation on the aggregate sum of the fee does not apply.

TITLE INSURANCE

Public Records

ACT 346 (HB1367) regulates access to public records by a title agent and a title company, clarifies the circuit clerk's custodial role for access to public records, and provides for the electronic transmittal of and access to public records.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Physical Office

ACT 349 (HB1595) removes the requirement that the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Insurance Plan maintain a physical office in the state, requires foreign reciprocal insurers to post a bond with the Insurance Commissioner, extends the timeframe for an examination of a hospital and medical service corporation, allows for service of process consistent with Rule 4 of the Arkansas Rules of Civil Procedure, and repeals a state program that was established to provide health insurance coverage for an individual who is considered uninsurable due to a preexisting condition.

Reporting Requirements

ACT 957 (SB483) repeals reporting requirements for the State Insurance Department concerning health insurance fraud, the assessment and user fee under the Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace, the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Insurance Plan, and servicing carriers. The act also repeals the requirement for quarterly reports for the State Securities Department and revises reporting requirements for the State Insurance Department regarding craniofacial coverage to provide that the report is submitted upon the request of a cochair of the House Committee on Insurance and Commerce or a cochair of the Senate Committee on Insurance and Commerce.

LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

EMPLOYMENT OFFICES AND AGENCIES

Private Employment Agencies

ACT 438 (SB278) repeals the Arkansas Private Employment Agency Act of 1975 and all statutes concerning the occupational authorization and licensure of private employment agencies, employment counselors, and employment agency managers.

LABOR DEPARTMENT

Poster - Veterans' Benefits and Services

ACT 655 (SB497) requires the creation of a poster regarding veterans' benefits and services and requires certain employers to display the poster.

LABOR RELATIONS AND PRACTICES

Hiring Practices - Providing References to Prospective Employers

ACT 369 (HB1643) allows a current or former employer to disclose a substantiated allegation of sexual abuse or sexual harassment by a current or former employee or the resignation of a former employee during an investigation of an allegation of sexual abuse or sexual harassment to a prospective employer of the current or former employee.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS - LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Title 11

ACT 168 (SB175) makes technical corrections recommended by the Arkansas Code Revision Commission to Title 11 of the Arkansas Code.

UNEMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS

Base Contribution Rate

ACT 740 (SB560) decreases the base contribution rate, increases the administrative assessment rate, increases funding for the skilled workforce in this state on and after January 1, 2026, and amends the Division of Workforce Services Training Trust Fund to allow the fund to be used for personal services, operating expenses, construction, grants, and worker training.

Short-Term Layoff

ACT 743 (SB598) reduces the amount of time an employer intends to recall an individual on short-term layoff.

Transfer of Public Employees' Unemployment Compensation Statutes

ACT 419 (HB1508) repeals, reorganizes, and recodifies Title 19 of the Arkansas Code, including recodifying statutes related to public employees' workers' compensation and unemployment compensation in Title 11.

Work Search Contacts - State-Maintained Job Board

ACT 708 (HB1582) amends the Division of Workforce Services law to require the state-maintained job board to match an individual with a job and encourages an individual to apply for a job as part of his or her work search contacts. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.

WAGES

Access to Earned Wages

ACT 347 (HB1517) allows for earned wage access as a financial services product that allows workers to access the wages that an employee has earned before the regularly scheduled payday, establishes the requirements for providers of earned wage access services, and sets the prohibited practices for providers of earned wage access services.

Minimum Wage - Employee Exception - Minor League Baseball Players

ACT 385 (HB1291) amends the Minimum Wage Act of the State of Arkansas to provide an exception to the definition of "employee" for certain minor league baseball players.

LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

WAGES

Minimum Wage - Unpaid Wages - Investigation of Complaints

ACT 397 (SB279) authorizes the Director of the Division of Labor to investigate all complaints of unpaid wages filed with the Division of Labor, establishes the assessment period for the investigation of a complaint, and provides that the filing of the complaint tolls the statute of limitations until a final order is entered. The act also authorizes an employee to be joined in the administrative proceeding if the director is prevented from discovering a valid claim due to a violation of the law.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Employment Status

ACT 743 (SB598) alters the test used for determining the employment status of an individual and amends the definition of "employee" under the Workers' Compensation law.

Pay Under the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System

ACT 522 (HB1341) allows an active member of the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System who receives temporary workers' compensation benefits for an injury or illness during his or her covered employment to remit the temporary workers' compensation benefits to his or her employer and requires the employer to report the total pay to the system.

Transfer of Public Employees' Workers' Compensation Statutes

ACT 419 (HB1508) repeals, reorganizes, and recodifies Title 19 of the Arkansas Code, including recodifying statutes related to public employees' workers' compensation and unemployment compensation in Title 11.

WORKFORCE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Division of Workforce Services Law - Administrative Assessments - Director Appointment

ACT 743 (SB598) alters the distribution of proceeds from administrative assessments, reflects the removal of the Department of Commerce from administration of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program and the Arkansas Health and Opportunity for Me Act of 2021, and removes the requirement that the Director of Workforce Services be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

Division of Workforce Services Law - Rules

ACT 743 (SB598) authorizes the Director of the Division of Workforce Services to establish criteria for the reduction or removal of work search requirements and for the eligibility of claimants for a waiver of penalties and interest for the settlement of overpayments by rule.

Legislative Study of Workforce and Social Services

ACT 145 (SB50) requires the Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee of the Legislative Council to study issues related to the reform of the state's workforce and social services and to consider related legislation that may be necessary to remedy any issues identified during the course of the study. The act provides for the expiration of the study on December 31, 2026.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

COUNTY SHERIFFS AND DEPUTIES

Retention of Property

ACT 684 (HB1780) allows an item in the possession of a county sheriff's office pursuant to a felony criminal investigation to be released before the statute of limitation has lapsed for the most serious possible crime to which the item could be connected.

Service of Order of Protection - Outstanding Warrants

ACT 828 (HB1433) requires a law enforcement officer who is executing or serving an order of protection on a person to also check for an outstanding criminal warrant for the person being served before executing service.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

CRIME LABORATORY

Records - Release to Arkansas Drug Director

ACT 954 (HB1843) authorizes the release of records and photographs kept by the State Crime Laboratory to the Arkansas Drug Director.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION - GENERALLY

Human Trafficking Prevention - Division of Arkansas State Police

ACT 667 (SB442) creates the Human Trafficking Operations Unit within the Division of Arkansas State Police and eliminates the State Task Force for the Prevention of Human Trafficking. The act creates the positions of Human Trafficking Coordinator and Human Trafficking Analyst within the Division of Arkansas State Police.

Postmortem Examinations

ACT 289 (HB1568) amends the requirement that a county coroner submit a decedent to the State Crime Laboratory for a postmortem examination when the death is by apparent drug, alcohol, or poison toxicity to provide an exception if the person was hospitalized and hospital evaluation is available for review.

Private Use of Automatic License Plate Readers

ACT 668 (SB446) allows a private landowner, private leaseholder, or commercial business to use an automatic license plate reader system for the purpose of promoting public safety, deterring crime, and monitoring access to private property. The act addresses the preservation of captured plate data and limits the purposes for which a private landowner, private leaseholder, or commercial business may use the captured plate data, and requires the private landowner, private leaseholder, or commercial business that uses an automatic license plate reader system to compile statistical data and make reports of the compiled data available to the Legislative Council upon request.

Sex Offender Registration - Lifetime Registration

ACT 362 (SB393) requires lifetime registration for a sex offender who was older than twenty-four (24) years of age at the time of the commission of the offense and whose victim was younger than fifteen (15) years of age at the time of the offense.

GENERALLY

Child Abduction Response Teams

ACT 658 (HB1887) repeals the law that required the Criminal Justice Institute to coordinate the certification and recertification of each statewide child abduction response team.

Green Envelope Program

ACT 531 (HB1798) establishes the Green Envelope Program to assist a law enforcement officer by making available a specially designed green envelope to hold a driver's essential documents for an individual who is diagnosed with a mental illness.

Human Trafficking - Display of Hotline Information

ACT 484 (HB1474) requires the display of information about the National Human Trafficking Hotline in certain restrooms and in a nail salon or massage business licensed by the Department of Health and removes the requirement that the information be posted in an abortion facility.

Individuals with Disabilities - Blue Envelope Program

ACT 16 (HB1046) establishes a Blue Envelope Program to ease communication between an individual with autism spectrum disorder and law enforcement during a motor vehicle-related interaction and directs the Department of Finance and Administration to develop and make available a specially designed blue envelope to hold essential documents.

Law Enforcement Cross-Deputization on Tribal Land

ACT 594 (SB510) allows a municipality, a county, or the state to enter into an agreement with a tribal nation that has federally recognized tribal land in the state for municipal, county, state, and tribal law enforcement agencies to have authority to enforce tribal, state, and local laws within the state on the tribal land and surrounding jurisdictions.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Line of Duty Death Retirement Benefits - Qualifying Cancers

ACT 416 (HB1322) increases the types of cancers that allow for the eligibility of payment of certain benefits when an active member in the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System dies before retirement as a result of personal injury or disease that arose in the performance of his or her employment. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION

Juvenile Sex Offenders

ACT 972 (SB490) allows a circuit court to waive the mandatory fee to be deposited into the DNA Detection Fund when a juvenile is ordered to register as sex offender.

Reassessment of Risk Level

ACT 357 (HB1579) prohibits an incarcerated person who is a sex offender or sexually dangerous person from being eligible for reassessment of his or her assigned risk level until after he or she has been released from incarceration.

STATE POLICE

Child Maltreatment Reporting

ACT 685 (HB1799) repeals the law that allows a report of child maltreatment or suspected child maltreatment by a mandated reporter to be made by facsimile transmission.

Missing Endangered Child Advisory System

ACT 653 (SB371) establishes the missing endangered child advisory system to aid in the search for missing children who do not meet the criteria for activation of the Arkansas Amber Alert System. The act requires the Division of Arkansas State Police to establish procedures for the activation of the missing endangered child advisory system and to coordinate with local law enforcement to ensure the effective use of the missing endangered child advisory system.

Missing Persons Alert Systems

ACT 951 (HB1523) codifies the Arkansas Amber Alert System and the Arkansas Silver Alert System that are administered by the Division of Arkansas State Police. The act establishes the Missing Endangered Adult Advisory System to be activated for a missing adult who does not meet the criteria for activation of the Arkansas Silver Alert System but has certain disabilities. The act requires the Missing Endangered Adult Advisory System to have safeguards in place to ensure the appropriate use of the system. The act requires the Division of Arkansas State Police to administer the Missing Endangered Adult Advisory System.

STATE POLICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Arkansas State Police Officers' Tier Two Deferred Retirement Option Plan

ACT 672 (HB1336) changes the percentage of the monthly retirement benefits going into the Arkansas State Police Officers' Tier Two Deferred Retirement Option Plan account that would have been payable to an employee had the employee elected to cease employment and receive a service retirement instead of participating in the Arkansas State Police Officers' Tier Two Deferred Retirement Option Plan. The act increases the fee charged for the cost of making copies of motor vehicle accident reports and traffic violation records for a person other than a person who was involved in the accident for which the report was generated and requires a portion of the fee to be used for state police retirement benefits. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS - LAW ENFORCEMENT, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Title 12

ACT 172 (HB1356) makes technical corrections recommended by the Arkansas Code Revision Commission to Title 12 of the Arkansas Code.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

Law Enforcement Training Reimbursement

ACT 748 (SB521) provides a process for a law enforcement agency that incurred costs or expenses for training a law enforcement officer to seek reimbursement from each law enforcement agency that subsequently employs the law enforcement officer within twenty-four (24) months after the completion of the training. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.

LOTTERY

LOTTERY PROCEEDS

Use of Lottery Net Proceeds

ACT 429 (SB232) amends the definition of "lottery proceeds" and "net proceeds" under the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery Act and amends the required contents of the Office of the Arkansas Lottery's annual comprehensive financial report. The act provides that the costs of administering scholarship awards are expenses of the Division of Higher Education to be reimbursed by the Office of the Arkansas Lottery using lottery net proceeds and eliminates the Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

LOTTERY WINNERS

Lien on Winnings - Unemployment Insurance Benefit Overpayment

ACT 743 (SB598) adds the overpayment of unemployment insurance benefits into the ranking of liens on winnings under the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery Act.

MILITARY AND VETERANS

GENERALLY

Access of Military Recruiters to School Facilities - Required

ACT 355 (HB1689) requires a public school district board of directors to grant access within each high school in its district to military forces recruiters to enable official recruiting representatives to inform students of educational and career opportunities available in the military. The act also requires the Secretary of the Military to collect information from Arkansas National Guard recruiters regarding compliance with this act by public school districts and prepare and submit an annual compliance report to the Secretary of the Department of Education.

Exemption from Property Tax Penalty for Deployed Taxpayers

ACT 550 (HB1658) defines "deployment" for purposes of the exception to the assessment of penalties related to the payment of property taxes for deployed taxpayers and requires a taxpayer who is exempt from payment of the penalty to provide evidence of his or her date of deployment.

Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs - Creation

ACT 34 (HB1056) creates the Joint Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs and provides for the membership, meeting requirements, staffing, and powers and duties of the committee. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after February 11, 2025.

Occupational Licensing Reporting Requirement - Repealed

ACT 470 (SB387) repeals the law requiring occupational licensing entities to submit a report concerning the number of individuals granted automatic occupational licensure and expedited occupational licensure under the Arkansas Occupational Licensing of Uniformed Service Members, Veterans, and Spouses Act of 2021.

MILITARY CODE

Arkansas National Guard - Military Justice

ACT 574 (HB1515) authorizes the Adjutant General of the Arkansas National Guard to order the organized militia into state active duty for the purpose of addressing military justice.

MILITARY AND VETERANS

MILITARY CODE

References to United States Armed Forces and United States Space Force

ACT 508 (HB1638) updates references to the branches of the United States Armed Forces to include the United States Space Force throughout the Arkansas Code. The act also updates references to the military of the United States to "United States Armed Forces" throughout the Arkansas Code.

MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

Military-Type Canteens and Exchanges - Contracts - Locations

ACT 507 (HB1498) amends the law concerning the entities with which a military-type canteen or exchange may enter into a contract or agreement and repeals the law allowing a military-type canteen or exchange to contract with an automobile rental agency. The act also removes references to specific military installations where a military-type canteen or exchange may be located.

MILITARY JUSTICE

Arkansas National Guard - Military Justice

ACT 574 (HB1515) authorizes the Adjutant General of the Arkansas National Guard to order the organized militia into state active duty for the purpose of addressing military justice.

Claimant Agency for Purpose of Setoff Against Tax Return

ACT 411 (HB1497) adds the Department of the Military to the list of claimant agencies that may seek a setoff against a person's state tax refund. The act adds a fine imposed by the department as a nonjudicial punishment and a fine from a court-martial to the definition of "debt" for the purpose of a setoff against a person's state tax refund.

Concurrent Jurisdiction in Juvenile Justice Cases

ACT 687 (HB1815) provides for concurrent jurisdiction between the federal government and the state in juvenile justice matters in which the federal government previously had exclusive jurisdiction, including without limitation on military bases.

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVES

Critical-Need Employees

ACT 253 (HB1514) amends the Uniform Attendance and Leave Policy Act to include the Department of the Military as a state agency that may employ a critical-need employee.

Public-Private Partnerships - Department of the Military

ACT 575 (HB1526) allows the Secretary of the Department of the Military to enter into a public-private partnership to accept voluntary services or personal property from a private entity to facilitate recruiting and retention. The act also requires that an agreement for a public-private partnership be presented to the Legislative Council or the Joint Budget Committee for reporting and review in certain circumstances.

SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES

Creation - Women Veterans

ACT 51 (SB45) authorizes the issuance and reissuance of a special license plate to promote and support women veterans. The act also repeals the Pearl Harbor Survivor Special License Plate. The act is effective on and after October 1, 2025.

TUITION AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Tuition Benefit - Eligibility Requirements

ACT 826 (HB1786) establishes the eligibility requirements for a tuition benefit for soldiers and airmen of the Arkansas National Guard attending certain private two-year and four-year colleges and universities.

Waiver - Arkansas National Guard

ACT 14 (HB1005) amends the eligibility requirements for tuition benefits for soldiers and airmen of the Arkansas National Guard to include programs of study leading to a postsecondary certificate or credential.

MILITARY AND VETERANS

VETERANS

Arkansas History Requirement - Unit on Veterans

ACT 647 (SB515) requires the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, in consultation with veterans' organizations, to develop and implement a unit within the existing Arkansas history course content guidelines that is dedicated to veterans and their families.

Benefits and Services - Poster

ACT 655 (SB497) requires the creation of a poster regarding veterans' benefits and services and requires certain employers to display the poster.

Disabled Veterans - Property Tax Exemption - Homestead Owned by a Trust or LLC

ACT 880 (HB1809) allows for property owned by a trust or a limited liability company to qualify as a homestead for purposes of the property tax exemption for disabled veterans and surviving spouses and minor dependent children of disabled veterans in certain circumstances. The act is effective for assessment years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

Exemption from Penalty When Redeeming Tax-Delinquent Property

ACT 259 (HB1400) provides that a disabled veteran is not subject to the penalty imposed on tax-delinquent property when the disabled veteran redeems a tax-delinquent parcel owned by the disabled veteran if the disabled veteran meets the requirements to claim a property tax exemption and meets the other requirements to redeem the tax-delinquent property.

Property Tax Exemption - Annual Submission of Letter Not Required

ACT 876 (HB1072) provides that the letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs that is required to be submitted to establish eligibility for the property tax exemption for disabled veterans is not required to be submitted annually and requires a taxpayer who has previously submitted a letter to notify the county collector if there are any changes in his or her eligibility for the exemption or in the use or ownership of the property that is the subject of the exemption. The act also allows a county collector to levy and collect up to three (3) years of property taxes, interest, and penalties if the property tax exemption is granted erroneously. The act is effective for assessment years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

Property Tax Exemption - Definition of "Homestead"

ACT 407 (HB1129) amends the definition of "homestead" for purposes of the property tax exemption for disabled veterans and their surviving spouses and minor dependent children to increase the number of acres included as part of the homestead. The act is effective for assessment years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

MOTOR VEHICLES

ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES

New All-Terrain Vehicle Dealers and New Low Speed Vehicle Dealers - Service

ACT 233 (SB94) eliminates the requirement for new all-terrain vehicle dealers and new low speed vehicle dealers to maintain a dedicated service and parts area or to perform repair and warranty services on an all-terrain vehicle or low speed vehicle at the licensed location. The act requires that dealers provide service of a vehicle sold by the dealer or provide the name of a service provider that will service the vehicle to the purchaser of the vehicle. The act also requires that dealers take certain actions in relation to providing a warranty or a manufacturer's warranty on a vehicle sold by the dealer.

Utility Task Vehicle - Operation on Designated Local Roads

ACT 922 (HB1606) allows a local government to authorize the operation of a utility task vehicle on certain designated public streets and highways within the local government's jurisdiction and establishes requirements for a utility task vehicle and the operator of a utility task vehicle that is being operated on a designated street or highway.

MOTOR VEHICLES**COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSE*****Requirement to Possess a United States Work Authorization - English Proficiency***

ACT 604 (HB1745) creates a requirement that certain commercial driver license holders possess an Employment Authorization Document or a valid work visa to operate a commercial motor vehicle in the state. The act requires an operator of a commercial motor vehicle to be proficient in the English language. The act also creates the offense of operating a commercial motor vehicle without proper documentation.

DRIVER'S LICENSE***Blood Type Designation***

ACT 147 (HB1315) authorizes the placement of a blood type designation on a driver's license or identification card. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.

Designation of a Level 3 or Level 4 Registered Sex Offender

ACT 984 (HB1984) requires an applicant for a driver's license or identification card to inform the Office of Driver Services whether the applicant is required to register as a sex offender, if the applicant is currently registered as a sex offender, and if the applicant is a Level 3 or Level 4 sex offender. The act requires that a designation be placed on a driver's license or identification card issued to a Level 3 or Level 4 sex offender. The act also allows the Office of Motor Vehicle to access sex offender registration records for the purposes of the issuance of a driver's license or identification card to a registered sex offender.

Digitized Identification Cards - Issuance

ACT 17 (HB1135) amends the law concerning the issuance of a digitized driver's license to allow the issuance of a digitized identification card that is downloaded through a mobile application. The act also provides that a digitized identification card may be accepted by a public entity or a private entity for all state purposes for which a driver's license or identification card is required. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after February 6, 2025.

Disclosure of Driver and Vehicle Records

ACT 581 (SB498) amends Arkansas law concerning the disclosure of driver and vehicle records, including amending the law pertaining to the records prepared under the seal of the Office of Motor Vehicle and specifying to whom the Office of Driver Services may provide a digital driver's license photograph and an abstract or driver confirmation record of a driver's record.

Display of Gender Information

ACT 711 (HB1796) requires a driver's license or identification card issued by the Office of Driver Services to state the applicant's gender information as "M" for male or "F" for female.

Instruction Manual and License Examination - Safe Operation in a Work Zone

ACT 117 (SB78) requires that the driver's instruction manual include information about the safe operation of a motor vehicle in a highway work zone and that the driver's license examination include questions about the safe operation of a motor vehicle in a highway work zone.

Intermediate Driver's Licenses

ACT 928 (HB1913) repeals the age limitation on the issuance of an intermediate driver's license and amends the requirements for the replacement of an intermediate driver's license with a standard driver's license. The act also provides that an additional intermediate driver's license may be issued for two (2) years if the applicant has not met the requirements to obtain a standard driver's license at the time of the expiration of the intermediate driver's license.

Restrictions - Person Who Has Suffered a Seizure

ACT 702 (SB540) prohibits the Office of Driver Services from suspending, revoking, or imposing a restriction on the driver's license of a person who has suffered a seizure for a period greater than six (6) months from the date that the person last experienced a seizure.

MOTOR VEHICLESDRIVER'S LICENSE***Revocation, Suspension, or Nonrenewal for Failure to Pay Court-Ordered Fines***

ACT 980 (HB1926) requires a defendant who claims an inability to pay a fine ordered by a circuit court to provide the circuit court with information concerning the defendant's monthly expenses. The act also requires a circuit court to consider the defendant's monthly expenses before requesting that the Department of Finance and Administration revoke, suspend, or nonrenew the defendant's driver's license for failure to pay court-ordered fines.

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS***Ignition Interlock Device***

ACT 841 (HB1875) requires a certain calibration setting for an ignition interlock device and requires that an ignition interlock device have the capability to randomly retest a driver's blood alcohol level while the vehicle's engine is on, store the results of each test, and take and retain a digital image of the driver during each test. The act allows a mandatory period of use of an ignition interlock device to be extended in certain circumstances and establishes the process for obtaining a certification of compliance for the removal of an ignition interlock device. The act is effective on and after July 1, 2026.

EMISSIONS***Diesel Engine Exhaust Fluid - Prohibition on Requirement***

ACT 738 (SB478) creates a class of diesel engine to be known as an "exempt engine" that is not required to use diesel exhaust fluid if operated solely within this state and prohibits a state entity from prohibiting or restricting the production, sale, or use of an exempt engine solely within this state. The act declares that an exempt engine that is manufactured and sold solely within this state is not subject to the enforcement of a federal diesel regulation. The act also creates penalties for violations of the act.

EQUIPMENT***Operation of a Motor Vehicle with a Modified Bumper - Offense***

ACT 492 (SB411) creates the offense of operation of a motor vehicle with a modified bumper.

Use of Warning Lights by Roadway Construction or Maintenance Vehicles

ACT 209 (HB1475) authorizes the use of amber, white, green, or any combination of amber, white, and green oscillating, flashing, or rotating emergency or warning lights on roadway construction or maintenance vehicles.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND INSURANCE***Surplus Lines***

ACT 345 (SB276) clarifies that surplus lines insurance is acceptable coverage for financial responsibility of motor vehicle insurance coverage if the surplus lines insurer is eligible to do business in Arkansas.

HIGHWAY COMMISSION***Permit for Special Cargo - Farm Machinery Equipment Hauler***

ACT 700 (SB496) amends the law concerning the issuance of a special permit by the State Highway Commission authorizing the movement of a vehicle hauling farm machinery equipment that exceeds the maximum width allowed by law.

LICENSE PLATES***Dealer's Extra License Plate***

ACT 816 (HB1834) allows the Arkansas Motor Vehicle Commission to deny an application for a motor vehicle dealer license or revoke or suspend a motor vehicle dealer license after it has been granted if the motor vehicle dealer uses or permits the use of a dealer's extra license plate by an authorized or unauthorized user for any purpose other than permitted under Arkansas law.

MOTOR VEHICLES

LICENSE PLATES

Dealer's Extra License Plate - Uses - Tax Exemption

ACT 710 (HB1688) provides the permitted uses of a dealer's extra license plate and provides that any use of a new or used motor vehicle for sale to which a dealer's extra license plate has been attached does not constitute a withdrawal from stock and is otherwise exempt from sales and use tax.

MOTOR VEHICLE COMMISSION

Auto Auction Fees for Salvage-Titled or Parts-Only Titled Vehicles

ACT 930 (HB1988) amends auto auction fees for salvage-titled or parts-only titled vehicles to specify that fifty percent (50%) of the fee is to be used for operations of the Division of Arkansas State Police.

Denial or Suspension of Licensure

ACT 816 (HB1834) allows the Arkansas Motor Vehicle Commission to deny an application for a motor vehicle dealer license or revoke or suspend a motor vehicle dealer license after it has been granted if the motor vehicle dealer uses or permits the use of a dealer's extra license plate by an authorized or unauthorized user for any purpose other than permitted under Arkansas law.

OFFICE OF DRIVER SERVICES

Disclosure of Driver and Vehicle Records

ACT 581 (SB498) amends Arkansas law concerning the disclosure of driver and vehicle records, including amending the law pertaining to the records prepared under the seal of the Office of Motor Vehicle and specifying to whom the Office of Driver Services may provide a digital driver's license photograph and an abstract or driver confirmation record of a driver's record.

Display of Gender Information on Driver's License or Identification Card

ACT 711 (HB1796) requires a driver's license or identification card issued by the Office of Driver Services to state the applicant's gender information as "M" for male or "F" for female.

Limitation of Restrictions On Driver's License - Seizures

ACT 702 (SB540) prohibits the Office of Driver Services from suspending, revoking, or imposing a restriction on the driver's license of a person who has suffered a seizure for a period greater than six (6) months from the date that the person last experienced a seizure.

OFFICE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Disclosure of Driver and Vehicle Records

ACT 581 (SB498) amends Arkansas law concerning the disclosure of driver and vehicle records, including amending the law pertaining to the records prepared under the seal of the Office of Motor Vehicle and specifying to whom the Office of Driver Services may provide a digital driver's license photograph and an abstract or driver confirmation record of a driver's record.

Electronic Lien, Titling, and Registration Systems - Electronic Signatures and Disclosures

ACT 926 (HB1845) allows an odometer disclosure to be made electronically, a registration certificate or certificate of title to be signed electronically, and a lien, lien release, security interest, or an application for a registration or certificate of title to be transmitted electronically to the Office of Motor Vehicle. The act also authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration to implement an electronic lien system, electronic titling system, and electronic registration system and establishes the requirements for a qualified vendor to provide those systems via a no-cost option to the state. The provisions allowing the electronic transmission of documents are effective only if the Office of Motor Vehicle implements the electronic lien system, electronic titling system, and electronic registration system.

MOTOR VEHICLES

PARKING

Disability Parking Permits - Signature Authority of Certain Healthcare Providers

ACT 98 (HB1138) authorizes an advanced practice registered nurse, a physician assistant, or a physical therapist to certify that a patient is a person with a disability for the purposes of the Access to Parking for Persons with Disabilities Act. The act also amends the signature authority of an advanced practice registered nurse and a physician assistant to match the certification language for a physical therapist for a patient who has a disability.

REGISTRATION

Electronic Lien, Titling, and Registration Systems - Electronic Signatures and Disclosures

ACT 926 (HB1845) allows an odometer disclosure to be made electronically, a registration certificate or certificate of title to be signed electronically, and a lien, lien release, security interest, or an application for a registration or certificate of title to be transmitted electronically to the Office of Motor Vehicle. The act also authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration to implement an electronic lien system, electronic titling system, and electronic registration system and establishes the requirements for a qualified vendor to provide those systems via a no-cost option to the state. The provisions allowing the electronic transmission of documents are effective only if the Office of Motor Vehicle implements the electronic lien system, electronic titling system, and electronic registration system.

Historic or Special Interest Vehicle

ACT 325 (HB1502) requires a historic or special interest vehicle to be at least thirty (30) years of age for registration purposes and to be furnished a special interest license plate.

RULES OF THE ROAD

Transport of Manufactured Homes

ACT 256 (SB253) amends the definition of a "manufactured home unit" to exclude a structure constructed for use as an office or classroom for the purpose of size and load regulations.

Use of Warning Lights by Roadway Construction or Maintenance Vehicles

ACT 209 (HB1475) authorizes the use of amber, white, green, or any combination of amber, white, and green oscillating, flashing, or rotating emergency or warning lights on roadway construction or maintenance vehicles.

SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES

Creation - Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Mid South

ACT 490 (HB1654) authorizes the issuance of a special license plate to promote and support the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Mid South. The act prohibits the Department of Finance and Administration from printing, producing, or acquiring additional Mid-South Community College education special license plates and deems the Mid-South Community College education special license plate to be repealed for purposes of the Special License Plate Act of 2005.

Creation - Women Veterans

ACT 51 (SB45) authorizes the issuance and reissuance of a special license plate to promote and support women veterans. The act also repeals the Pearl Harbor Survivor Special License Plate. The act is effective on and after October 1, 2025.

Historic or Special Interest Vehicle

ACT 325 (HB1502) requires a historic or special interest vehicle to be at least thirty (30) years of age for registration purposes and to be furnished a special interest license plate.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS - TRANSPORTATION

Title 27

ACT 180 (HB1364) makes technical corrections recommended by the Arkansas Code Revision Commission to Title 27 of the Arkansas Code.

MOTOR VEHICLES

TOWING AND STORAGE

Arkansas Towing and Recovery Board - Membership - Fees for Cargo - Complaints

ACT 932 (HB2001) removes the current members of the Arkansas Towing and Recovery Board, creates new requirements for the membership of the board, allows the Governor to appoint members for new terms to the board, and allows the Director of the Arkansas Towing and Recovery Board to exercise the powers and duties assigned to the board in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Labor and Licensing. The act also provides for the continuation of complaints filed with the board, creates new requirements for the reclamation of cargo from a towing and storage firm, and requires towing and storage firms to display a notice on a towing and storage invoice of the process for filing a complaint with the board. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 21, 2025.

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Mobile Work Zones - Creation - Penalties

ACT 327 (HB1596) allows the creation and designation of a mobile work zone on a highway, street, or road where construction, reconstruction, maintenance, or other work is being performed for a limited period of time. The act also allows additional fines and penalties to be assessed for a moving traffic violation in a mobile work zone in certain circumstances.

NATURAL RESOURCES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council - Membership

ACT 102 (HB1220) amends the membership of the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council to include a designee of the Commissioner of State Lands.

ENERGY

Arkansas Alternative Motor Fuel Development Act - Repealed

ACT 295 (SB267) repeals the Arkansas Alternative Motor Fuel Development Act that authorized the Arkansas Energy Office of the Division of Environmental Quality to offer a rebate for certain refueling stations and for qualified alternative motor vehicle property. The act also repeals the corresponding Alternative Motor Fuel Development Fund.

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Grant Program - Repealed

ACT 493 (SB416) repeals the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Grant Program created within the Department of Energy and Environment to award grants related to the deployment of Level 2 and Level 3 charging facilities. The act also repeals the corresponding Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund.

FORESTRY

Arkansas Forestry Commission - Committee Membership

ACT 212 (HB1487) amends the number of commissioners on the Arkansas Forestry Commission's committee.

LAND

Arkansas Plane Coordinate System

ACT 214 (HB1441) supersedes the legacy plane coordinate systems with the Arkansas Plane Coordinate System.

Nutrient Management Plans and Litter Management Plans - Application - Liability

ACT 820 (HB1928) provides definitions for an "approved nutrient management plan" and an "approved poultry litter management plan," prohibits the application of nutrients consistent with an approved nutrient management plan or approved poultry litter management plan from being the basis for any civil or criminal liability for the approved nutrient management or approved poultry litter management plan holder or agent, and prohibits an administrative violation related to nutrient management plans or poultry litter management plans from being the basis for criminal or civil action or the basis for a private right of action.

NATURAL RESOURCESLAND***Recreational Hunting Land***

ACT 817 (HB1827) prohibits commission land management decisions and actions of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission under the Arkansas Hunting Heritage Protection Act from resulting in any net loss of habitat land acreage available for hunting opportunities on commission-managed lands that existed as of January 1, 2025. The act requires the commission to take certain actions related to finding replacement acreage and requires annual reporting to the House Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs and the Senate Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION***Water and Sewer Treatment Facilities Grant Program***

ACT 812 (HB1681) establishes the Water and Sewer Treatment Facilities Grant Program to be administered by the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission to award grants to eligible water and sewer treatment facilities. The act requires the commission to promulgate rules to implement the program and to report annually to the Legislative Council or, if the General Assembly is in session, the Joint Budget Committee. The act provides that the program expires five (5) years from the effective date of the act. The act also establishes the Water and Sewer Treatment Facilities Grant Fund. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 17, 2025.

OIL, GAS, AND BRINE***Brine Production Unit - Reduction and Transfers***

ACT 254 (HB1413) authorizes the operator of a brine production unit or brine expansion unit to apply to the Oil and Gas Commission to reduce the size of the unit and allows the commission to approve the operator's application if the commission makes certain findings. The act also authorizes the operators of adjacent brine production units or brine expansion units to apply to the commission to transfer one (1) or more contiguous tracts and requires the commission to approve the application if the commission makes certain findings.

Class II Underground Injection Control Disposal Well - Notice

ACT 374 (HB1385) requires the Oil and Gas Commission to provide written notice of a public hearing on any permit to drill, deepen, re-enter, recomplete, or operate any Class II underground injection control disposal well to each member of the General Assembly who represents the district where the Class II underground injection control disposal well is located and requires the written notice to include certain information.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas - Regulation

ACT 441 (SB275) repeals laws related to the odorization of gas; dealers' safety meetings for employees; standards for containers, systems, appliances, and appurtenances; vapor pressure; the strength of butane containers and propane containers; and the furnishing of account statements to certain customers. The act authorizes the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board to require training for employees of all permit holders and authorizes the board to accept a reciprocal state's employee certification. The sections of the act that repeal laws are effective on and after April 1, 2026.

Oil and Gas Commission - Transportation of Hazardous Liquids or Carbon Dioxide

ACT 150 (HB1412) requires the Oil and Gas Commission to take certain actions related to pipeline facilities used in the transportation of hazardous liquids or carbon dioxide.

Oil and Gas Commission - Underground Storage of Carbon Dioxide

ACT 149 (HB1411) authorizes the Oil and Gas Commission to take certain actions related to administering the underground storage of carbon dioxide, the Underground Injection Control program regarding Class VI wells, and the Carbon Dioxide Storage Fund, which is established by the act.

NATURAL RESOURCES

OIL, GAS, AND BRINE

Royalty - Net Proceeds

ACT 1024 (HB1656) provides a definition of "net proceeds" under the law concerning the allocation of production and costs following an integration order and in accordance with the law concerning the obligation of operators and working interest owners to mineral owners. The act provides for the minimum royalty payable to a royalty owner from the production of gas and authorizes a mineral owner to negotiate a higher royalty with a lessee by contract. The act also requires deductions or expenses taken by the operator or the nonoperating working interest owner that is a party to a lease that are not in accordance with the lease terms to be reimbursed to the royalty owner.

PUBLICITY AND TOURISM

Recreational Tramways - Creation - Duties of Participants and Operators

ACT 155 (SB203) creates a recreational tramway system for state parks and other locations in the state and addresses duties related to persons engaged in outdoor recreation activities, tramway operators, and recreation operators. The act also addresses assumptions of risk related to outdoor recreation activities and the liability of tramway operators and outdoor recreation operators. The act requires the Arkansas Occupational Safety and Health office within the Department of Labor and Licensing to make investigators and inspectors available to investigate and inspect recreational tramways and requires claims against a state entity to be submitted to the Arkansas State Claims Commission.

WATER

Arkansas Waterways Commission - Appointment Authority - Director

ACT 293 (SB259) transfers appointment authority for the Director of the Arkansas Waterways Commission from the Arkansas Waterways Commission to the Governor.

Eligibility for State Water Development Programs

ACT 736 (SB420) expands eligibility for state water development programs by expanding the definition of a "qualified corporation" and by amending the uses of the Construction Assistance Revolving Loan Fund to include public or private owners of an environmental project.

General Obligation Bonds - Water Development Projects

ACT 578 (SB421) authorizes the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission to issue general obligation bonds to finance and refinance the development of water, waste disposal, pollution control, abatement and prevention, drainage, irrigation, flood control, and wetlands and aquatic resources projects and requires the question of the issuance of the bonds to be submitted to voters at the 2026 general election or a special election called for that purpose.

Sewer Collection and Treatment - Fiscal Sustainability

ACT 925 (HB1701) creates an oversight framework within the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission for providers of sewage collection or sewage treatment services and sets out criteria to determine providers in fiscal distress and requirements for those providers. The act creates commission training requirements for members of provider boards and creates an advisory training board.

Water Authority - Contact Information

ACT 239 (HB1387) requires the board of directors of a public water authority organized under the Water Authority Act to publish each board member's name and telephone number on the public websites of the public water authority and the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission and to update the contact information within ten (10) days of any changes.

NATURAL RESOURCESWATER***Watersheds and Other Bodies of Water - Moratoriums***

ACT 921 (SB290) prohibits moratoriums on the issuance of permits in watersheds and other bodies of water. The act establishes the process to institute a moratorium related to a watershed or other body of water and provides for the expiration of the moratorium. The act provides that a committee or subcommittee voting not to approve a rule to institute a moratorium in watersheds or other bodies of water is not required to state grounds. The act requires the Department of Agriculture to utilize the rules on Liquid Animal Water Management Systems until the department adopts final rules regarding liquid animal waste management systems. The act is effective on and after February 1, 2026.

PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONSACCOUNTANTS***Substantial Equivalency and Practice Reviews***

ACT 428 (SB432) allows the Arkansas State Board of Public Accountancy to determine substantial equivalency requirements, provide parameters encompassing substantial equivalency, and require by rule a practice review of every certified public accountant and firm licensed in the state. The act also amends various provisions of the law concerning accountants, including the waiver of an examination fee for the initial licensure of an accountant and the reinstatement and revocation of a lapsed accountant license.

APPRAISERS, ABSTRACTERS, AND HOME INSPECTORS***Board Duties - Licensure - Funds***

ACT 949 (SB443) amends the duties of the State Board of Appraisers, Abstracters, and Home Inspectors by repealing the prohibition of a board member acting as an investigator and repealing the authority of the board to disburse funds collected into the Arkansas Home Inspectors Registration Fund, to employ legal counsel to represent the board, and to contract for administrative support services. The act also amends the requirements for licensure of an abstracter and a home inspector. The act repeals the requirement that disciplinary hearings conducted by the board for the purpose of deciding whether to levy civil penalties be executive sessions under the Freedom of Information Act of 1967. The act also abolishes the Arkansas Home Inspectors Registration Fund and the Arkansas Abstracters' Board Fund and transfers both funds to the State Board of Appraisers, Abstracters, and Home Inspectors Fund. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Home Inspectors - Insurance Requirements

ACT 974 (HB1625) allows a licensed home inspector to obtain a professional liability insurance policy or an errors and omissions insurance policy, if that policy has been approved by the State Insurance Department, to cover the home inspections performed by the home inspector.

BARBERS***Application and Examination Requirements***

ACT 436 (HB1673) amends the application requirements for a license issued by the State Board of Barber Examiners, the examination requirement for a certificate of registration to practice as a registered barber, the personal lifetime barber license requirements, grounds for disciplinary actions related to barbers, the application requirements for a license and approval as a registered school or college of barbering, and the application requirements for student enrollment at a school of barbering. The act also repeals the requirement for each student to follow a daily schedule at a barber college.

PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS

BOXERS AND WRESTLERS

Professional Wrestling Events

ACT 947 (HB1952) requires the State Athletic Commission to govern a professional wrestling event with one thousand five hundred (1,500) or more attendees. The act adds "professional wrestling" to the definition of "combative sports" in the law pertaining to combative sporting events and amends the requirements for a promoter following a combative sports match.

CONTRACTORS AND SUBCONTRACTORS

Action for Unjust Enrichment or Quantum Meruit

ACT 750 (SB364) allows a contractor in violation of contractor licensing laws to bring an action for unjust enrichment or quantum meruit if the contractor timely pays any fees assessed against him or her by the Contractors Licensing Board and properly applies to the board for a contractor's license.

Claims Against Certain Contractors and Suppliers

ACT 558 (HB1468) establishes a process to be followed before commencing an action against a home improvement contractor, residential building contractor, or supplier regarding a construction defect found within one (1) year after completion of a dwelling.

Financial Statements Required to be Submitted by a Licensee

ACT 235 (SB186) amends the requirement that licensees of the Contractors Licensing Board submit financial statements with original and renewal applications and requires that a financial statement be prepared by a licensed certified public accountant or licensed public accountant in certain circumstances.

ELECTRICIANS

Department of Labor and Licensing - Code Enforcement Section

ACT 746 (SB627) amends the Code Enforcement Section of the Department of Labor and Licensing. The act repeals the electrical contractor and air conditioning electrician licenses, transfers the Class C HVACR license to a Class B HVACR license, amends the licensing requirements of apprentice electricians, amends the requirements for elevator owner testing, and clarifies annual licensing renewal periods. The act also transfers all duties of the Director of the Division of Labor pertaining to boiler inspection to the Secretary of the Department of Labor and Licensing.

FORESTERS

Forestry - Violations and Penalties

ACT 291 (SB249) allows the Arkansas Forestry Commission to impose a civil penalty for a violation relating to forestry and to promulgate rules to establish a penalty matrix for these violations.

GENERALLY

Automatic or Expedited Occupational Licensure Reporting - Repealed

ACT 470 (SB387) repeals the law requiring occupational licensing entities to submit a report concerning the number of individuals granted automatic occupational licensure and expedited occupational licensure under the Arkansas Occupational Licensing of Uniformed Service Members, Veterans, and Spouses Act of 2021.

HEALTHCARE WORKERS - OTHER

Audiologist - Scope of Practice

ACT 517 (SB118) amends the definition of "audiology" relating to the practice of audiologists to clarify the scope of practice of an audiologist.

PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS**HEALTHCARE WORKERS - OTHER*****Automatic Occupational Licensure - Physician Assistants***

ACT 968 (SB121) allows the Arkansas State Medical Board to provide for an automatic occupation licensure for new residents of the state who are licensed as physician assistants in another state, territory, or district of the United States if the new residents do not have a disqualifying criminal offense or complaint, allegation, or investigation pending for their occupational activity.

Behavior Analyst Registration

ACT 432 (HB1245) creates a voluntary registration with the Arkansas Psychology Board for registered behavior analysts and amends the membership of the Arkansas Psychology Board.

Certified Community-Based Doulas

ACT 965 (HB1252) creates a certification program within the Department of Health for certified community-based doulas.

Community Health Worker Act

ACT 435 (HB1258) authorizes certification of community health workers by the Department of Health.

Criminal History Records Checks

ACT 674 (HB1454) amends the laws concerning criminal history records checks for employees of healthcare service providers to allow third-party employee evaluation services to perform criminal history records checks and to require criminal history records checks for independent contractors.

Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact

ACT 395 (SB111) establishes the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact in Arkansas, which allows dentists and dental hygienists licensed in compact states to provide dental services in a compact state without becoming licensed in the state. The act provides that the Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners is the administrator of the compact for this state.

Dietitian Licensure Compact

ACT 799 (HB1185) establishes the Dietitian Licensure Compact in Arkansas, which allows dietitians licensed in compact states to provide dietetic services in a compact state without becoming licensed in the state. The act provides that the Arkansas Dietetics Licensing Board is the administrator of the compact for this state. The act also amends the criminal history checks for dietitians to comply with the criminal history checks within the compact.

Disease Intervention Specialists - Registration - Repealed

ACT 230 (HB1478) repeals the law concerning the registration of disease intervention specialists.

Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact

ACT 384 (HB1253) establishes the Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact in Arkansas, which allows emergency medical services personnel licensed in compact states to provide emergency medical services in a compact state without becoming licensed in the state. The act provides that the Department of Health is the administrator of the compact and amends the criminal history check requirements for emergency medical services personnel to comply with the compact.

Hearing Instrument Dispensers - Practice Definition

ACT 641 (HB1758) amends the definition of "practice of dispensing hearing instruments" to include ordering the use of suitable hearing instruments.

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist - Licensure by Endorsement

ACT 858 (HB1187) requires the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Counseling to issue a licensure by endorsement for a licensed marriage and family therapist.

Physician Assistant Delegation

ACT 437 (SB99) authorizes a physician assistant to delegate certain tasks.

PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS

HEALTHCARE WORKERS - OTHER

Physician Assistant Licensure Compact

ACT 300 (SB101) establishes the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact in Arkansas, which allows physician assistants licensed in compact states to provide medical services in a compact state without becoming licensed in the state. The act provides that the Arkansas State Medical Board is the administrator of the compact for this state.

Procurers of Chiropractic Physician

ACT 309 (HB1405) adds regulations concerning solicitation for medical services and the use of a procurer by a licensed chiropractic physician.

Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly Providers - Licensure Exemption

ACT 144 (SB180) exempts providers in the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly from the licensing requirements for home healthcare services.

Provisional License for Counseling

ACT 231 (HB1256) requires the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Counseling to issue a provisional license for a licensed associate counselor or a licensed associate marriage and family therapist.

Registered Dialysis Patient Care Technicians

ACT 198 (HB1183) authorizes the Arkansas State Board of Nursing to register individuals who meet certain requirements as dialysis patient care technicians to administer direct patient care and hemodialysis under the authority of a registered nurse.

Social Work Licensure Compact

ACT 639 (HB1712) establishes the Social Work Licensure Compact in Arkansas, which allows social workers licensed in compact states to provide social work services in a compact state without becoming licensed in the state. The act provides that the Arkansas Social Work Licensing Board is the administrator of the compact for this state.

Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology - License Expiration

ACT 966 (HB1471) amends the expiration date of all licenses of the Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

MASSAGE THERAPY

Interstate Massage Compact

ACT 267 (HB1217) establishes the Interstate Massage Compact in Arkansas, which allows massage therapists licensed in compact states to provide massage therapy services in a compact state without becoming licensed in the state. The act provides that the Department of Health is the administrator of the compact for this state.

Massage Therapy Establishments

ACT 629 (HB1440) establishes requirements for registration for massage therapy establishments and repeals language related to massage therapy spas and massage therapy clinics.

NURSES

Advanced Practice Registered Nurse - Death Pronouncement

ACT 862 (HB1734) clarifies that an advanced practice registered nurse may complete and sign the medical certificate of death and pronounce the death of a patient in a hospital setting if the advanced practice registered nurse is given authority by the medical staff of the hospital and a physician other than an emergency department physician is not immediately available.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurse - Delegation

ACT 959 (HB1131) authorizes an advanced practice registered nurse to delegate certain tasks to medical assistants and other unlicensed staff.

Certified Medication Assistant

ACT 265 (HB1182) replaces the defined term "medication assistive person" with "certified medication assistant" throughout the certification statutes and modifies the certification requirements, qualifications, and scope of practice for a certified medication assistant.

PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS

NURSES

Prescriptive Authority - Stimulant Substitution

ACT 963 (HB1963) clarifies that an advanced practice registered nurse who prescribes a stimulant may substitute a therapeutically equivalent medication of the drug prescribed by the physician and requires the advanced practice registered nurse to notify the physician who originally prescribed the stimulant of the substitution.

Signature Authority - Diabetic Shoes and Shoe Inserts

ACT 431 (HB1167) modifies the signature authority of advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants to clarify that the authorization for durable medical equipment includes diabetic shoes and shoe inserts.

PEST CONTROL SERVICES

Transfer of Certain Duties to the Department of Agriculture

ACT 292 (SB250) amends provisions of law regarding pest control. The act transfers certain duties of the State Plant Board related to pest control to the Department of Agriculture. The act repeals the exemption for unlicensed pest control operators working under the supervision of a licensed pest control operator and amends the requirement to display the name of a license holder on all motor equipment that requires a state vehicle license.

PHARMACIES AND PHARMACISTS

Any Willing Provider Laws

ACT 310 (HB1587) amends the any willing provider laws and the Patient Protection Act of 1995 to include pharmacies.

Any Willing Provider Laws - Pharmacy Benefits Managers

ACT 425 (SB103) requires pharmacy benefits managers to accept any pharmacy or pharmacist willing to accept relevant and reasonable terms of participation according to the any willing provider laws and the Patient Protection Act of 1995. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 3, 2025.

Contracts - Pharmacy Benefits Managers

ACT 775 (SB544) adds definitions related to pharmacy benefits managers, requires a pharmacy benefits manager to provide certain information during contract negotiations to allow for informed healthcare contracting decisions, provides for sixty days' notice for opt-out contracts, and revises the penalties available under the Arkansas Pharmacy Benefits Manager Licensure Act for an underpayment violation.

Outsourcing Facility of Legend Drugs and Controlled Substances

ACT 961 (HB1801) authorizes an outsourcing facility of legend drugs and controlled substances that compounds a product to sell the compounded product to retail pharmacies, healthcare facilities, or healthcare providers.

Pharmacy Permits - Pharmacy Benefits Managers

ACT 624 (HB1150) prohibits a pharmacy benefits manager from obtaining a pharmacy permit for the retail sale of drugs or medicines in this state, requires the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy to revoke or not renew a permit of an entity that violates the prohibition under the section, and allows for the board to issue a limited use permit for certain rare, orphan, or limited distribution drugs that are otherwise unavailable in the market to a patient or a pharmacy that would otherwise be prohibited under the section. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.

PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS

PHARMACIES AND PHARMACISTS

Prohibition on Limiting Prescription Medications to Limited Distribution Networks

ACT 630 (HB1531) regulates the ability of pharmaceutical manufacturers and pharmaceutical manufacturers for Medicaid to restrict or limit prescription medications to a limited distribution network of pharmacies. The act also prohibits a state government and public plan sponsor for a health benefit plan from paying for prescription medications from a pharmaceutical manufacturer or a pharmaceutical manufacturer for Medicaid who is noncompliant and allows the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy to fine a pharmaceutical manufacturer for noncompliance. The act requires that a pharmaceutical manufacturer or pharmaceutical manufacturer for Medicaid be in compliance with the act on or before September 1, 2026.

Right of Action for Violation of Maximum Allowable Costs List

ACT 990 (SB583) allows a pharmacy, pharmacist, or business providing pharmacy services to pursue a right of action for violations of the law concerning Maximum Allowable Costs Lists, recover attorney's fees and costs, and recover statutory damages. The act also provides that the right of action does not permit an action against any government, governmental agency, or governmental official.

PHYSICAL THERAPISTS AND ATHLETIC TRAINERS

Athletic Trainers - Scope of Practice

ACT 266 (HB1213) clarifies the definition of "athlete" relating to athletic training and modifies the direction and supervision of an athletic trainer. The act also defines the term "healthcare provider" regarding student athlete concussion education and protocols and requires the Department of Health to provide an updated type of healthcare provider list to the Arkansas Activities Association.

Medicaid Reimbursement in a Clinic-Based Setting

ACT 103 (SB77) requires the Arkansas Medicaid Program to reimburse for physical therapy provided in a clinic-based setting.

Signature Authority

ACT 98 (HB1138) authorizes an advanced practice registered nurse, a physician assistant, or a physical therapist to certify that a patient is a person with a disability for the purposes of the Access to Parking for Persons with Disabilities Act. The act also amends the signature authority of an advanced practice registered nurse and a physician assistant to match the certification language for a physical therapist for a patient who has a disability.

PHYSICIANS

Covenant Not to Compete

ACT 232 (SB139) clarifies that a covenant not to compete agreement that restricts the right of a physician to practice within the physician's scope of practice is void.

Credentialing Information

ACT 423 (HB1288) requires a healthcare insurer to make certain retroactive payments to a provider upon receipt of the physician's credentialing information from the Centralized Credentials Verification Services of the Arkansas State Medical Board. The act provides that it does not apply to the Arkansas Medicaid Program.

Graduate of Foreign Medical School - Provisional License

ACT 971 (SB601) creates an alternative pathway for a graduate of a foreign medical school to be provisionally licensed if he or she is offered full-time employment as a physician by a healthcare provider that operates in a medically underserved population in this state and meets additional criteria. The act also authorizes renewal of the provisional license and establishes a pathway for the graduate to obtain an active, unrestricted license.

Healthcare Insurer - Application

ACT 571 (HB1788) reduces the time allowed for processing an application of a provider under the Arkansas Health Care Consumer Act.

PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS

PHYSICIANS

Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

ACT 269 (SB119) establishes the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact in Arkansas, which allows physicians licensed in compact states to provide medical services in a compact state without becoming licensed in the state. The act provides that the Arkansas State Medical Board is the administrator of the compact for this state.

PLUMBERS

Exemption for Septic System Installers

ACT 255 (HB1447) exempts a licensed septic system installer from the requirement to be licensed as a plumber for the installation of a pipe from the stub out pipe to the septic tank.

POLYGRAPH EXAMINERS AND VOICE STRESS ANALYSIS EXAMINERS

Private Investigators

ACT 678 (HB1692) removes a crime involving moral turpitude as a disqualifying offense for a polygraph examiner license applicant, an intern polygraph examiner license applicant, a voice stress analysis examiner license applicant, and a private investigator or private security agency license or credential applicant. The act removes a crime involving moral turpitude as grounds for the denial, suspension, or revocation of a polygraph examiner license, an intern polygraph examiner license, and a voice stress analysis examiner license. The act also repeals the requirement that the Director of the Division of Arkansas State Police notify the sheriff of the county and the chief of police of the city in which an applicant to be a commissioned security officer or a commission school security officer resides.

PSYCHOLOGISTS

Licensed Psychological Practitioner

ACT 433 (HB1254) authorizes a licensed psychological practitioner to be licensed by the Arkansas Psychology Board and allows a licensed psychological practitioner to practice independently. The act also removes the independent practice privileges from psychological examiners and places a moratorium on new psychological examiner licenses after December 31, 2026.

Psychology Technicians

ACT 434 (HB1257) removes the limitation of the practice of neuropsychology from technicians employed by psychologists and allows psychology technicians to be employed by psychologists. The act also sets certain standards for the education of technicians, allows technicians to administer fitness-to-proceed examinations, and allows psychologists to be reimbursed for services provided by technicians.

REAL ESTATE LICENSEES

Continuing Education Exemptions

ACT 559 (HB1794) creates continuing education exemptions for a salesperson, associate broker, principal broker, or executive broker licensee who meets an age requirement and other criteria. The act also allows the Executive Director of the Arkansas Real Estate Commission to waive all or part of the continuing education requirements of a licensee on the basis of health-related concerns or restrictions or in recognition of the licensee's achievements.

Dual Agency

ACT 835 (HB1853) clarifies the obligations of dual agency concerning the disclosure of confidential information under the Arkansas Real Estate Law.

Property Management Broker and Property Management Associate Licenses

ACT 392 (HB1558) creates the property management broker license and the property management associate license under the Arkansas Real Estate License Law, creates violations related to the licenses, and establishes licensing and continuing education requirements for each license.

PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS

SURVEYORS

Entry - Commercial Poultry Farms

ACT 99 (HB1278) requires surveyors to take certain actions before entering onto a commercial poultry farm to survey the poultry farm or a property adjacent to the commercial poultry farm.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS - PROFESSIONS, OCCUPATIONS, AND BUSINESSES

Title 17

ACT 170 (SB177) makes technical corrections recommended by the Arkansas Code Revision Commission to Title 17 of the Arkansas Code.

VETERINARIANS

Indirect Supervision for Emergency Calls

ACT 19 (SB68) authorizes a supervising veterinarian to use indirect supervision to allow veterinary technicians, veterinary technologists, and veterinary technician specialists to go to a location other than the location of the supervising veterinarian to provide services based on an emergency call.

Veterinary Telemedicine

ACT 18 (SB61) authorizes veterinary telemedicine and allows a veterinarian to provide veterinary telemedicine in an emergency or urgent situation without a previously established veterinarian-client-patient relationship if the veterinarian establishes the veterinarian-client-patient relationship within a set time period.

PROPERTY RIGHTS AND INTERESTS

FARMLAND

Holding, Leasing, or Owning Land Prohibited for Certain Foreign Parties

ACT 811 (HB1680) prohibits a foreign-party-controlled business from leasing, retaining, or holding an interest in land. The act also defines "critical infrastructure" as used in relation to foreign ownership of land and prohibits a prohibited foreign party from holding any interest in agricultural land located within ten (10) miles of critical infrastructure.

LANDLORDS AND TENANTS

Regulation of Fee Charged for Rental Application or Rental Deposit

ACT 459 (SB91) prohibits a local government unit from regulating or controlling the amount charged for a rental application fee or rental deposit for private residential or commercial property.

Termination of Oral Lease of Farmland

ACT 941 (HB1562) allows written notice of the termination of an oral lease of farmland by any method of service permitted under Rule 4 of the Arkansas Rules of Civil Procedure.

MANUFACTURED HOMES

Contracts

ACT 771 (SB600) provides that Arkansas law governs a transaction in which an Arkansas resident in this state enters into a contract to purchase or finance the purchase of certain real or personal property used as a dwelling unit in this state. The act also provides that any litigation pertaining to this type of contract is subject to the jurisdiction of this state.

Transport

ACT 256 (SB253) amends the definition of a "manufactured home unit" to exclude a structure constructed for use as an office or classroom for the purpose of size and load regulations.

MORTGAGES AND LIENS

Liens - Superiority of Purchase Money Mortgage

ACT 29 (HB1273) provides that a lien created by the entry of a certificate of indebtedness issued by the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration is not superior to a purchase money mortgage.

PROPERTY RIGHTS AND INTERESTS

MORTGAGES AND LIENS

Mortgage Trigger Lead

ACT 263 (HB1184) prohibits the use of a mortgage trigger lead in a misleading or deceptive manner under the Fair Mortgage Lending Act.

Priority of Liens - Mortgage Construction Loans

ACT 479 (HB1271) provides that if construction of an improvement commences before the recordation of a mortgage or other security instrument that provides a security interest for the purpose of funding construction or repair of the improvement, only liens for providing labor, materials, or supplies before the recordation of the mortgage or other security instrument that provides a security interest have priority over the mortgage or other security instrument that provides a security interest.

Statutory Foreclosure - Attorney's Fees

ACT 306 (HB1238) authorizes a mortgagor to recover reasonable attorney's fees if a court sets aside a statutory foreclosure sale due to a mortgagee's failure to strictly comply with statutory foreclosure law.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Ownership of Content from Generative Artificial Intelligence Tool

ACT 927 (HB1876) provides that a person who provides input or a directive to a generative artificial intelligence tool to generate content or conduct model training is the owner of the generated content or model training data unless the content or data infringes on existing copyrights or intellectual property rights. The act also provides that when an individual is directed by his or her employer to use a generative artificial intelligence tool to conduct model training or generate content as part of his or her employment duties, the model training data or generated content is the property of the individual's employer.

Right of Publicity

ACT 159 (HB1071) allows an individual whose photograph, voice, or likeness is reproduced using artificial intelligence and used for unauthorized commercial purposes to bring a lawsuit for damages and to recover lost profits, funds, goods, or services from the unauthorized commercial use.

Self-Service Storage Facility - Creation and Termination of Rental Agreements

ACT 393 (HB1652) allows the enforcement of an unsigned self-service storage facility rental agreement in certain circumstances. The act also creates a procedure to provide notice of the termination of a self-service storage facility rental agreement.

REAL PROPERTY - GENERALLY

Agricultural Impact Remediation Agreements

ACT 923 (HB1525) requires a commercial renewable energy facility owner to enter into an agricultural impact remediation agreement with a landowner before construction of a commercial renewable energy facility on agricultural land can begin and provides specific requirements for the contents of the agricultural impact remediation agreement.

Dirtbike Use on Private Property

ACT 312 (HB1465) provides that a participant assumes the inherent risk of dirtbike use by engaging in dirtbike use on private property and that an owner of private property is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant resulting from the inherent risk of dirtbike use on the owner's property.

Donation Deeds and Homestead Donation Deeds

ACT 216 (HB1399) repeals the law concerning the issuance of donation deeds and homestead donation deeds by the Commissioner of State Lands and repeals the law concerning the donation of tax-forfeited land.

PROPERTY RIGHTS AND INTERESTS

REAL PROPERTY - GENERALLY

Holding, Leasing, or Owning Land Prohibited for Certain Foreign Parties

ACT 811 (HB1680) prohibits a foreign-party-controlled business from leasing, retaining, or holding an interest in land. The act also defines "critical infrastructure" as used in relation to foreign ownership of land and prohibits a prohibited foreign party from holding any interest in agricultural land located within ten (10) miles of critical infrastructure.

Horizontal Property Act

ACT 516 (SB323) revises the definitions of "apartment," "general common elements," and "limited common elements" and adds definitions for "common elements," "declarant," and "development rights" under the Horizontal Property Act. The act clarifies the procedure to establish a horizontal property regime, updates the requirements for a master deed under the Horizontal Property Act, and clarifies the ownership and valuation of separate units and elements, including liability for expenses and assessments for members of a horizontal property regime. The act is effective on and after September 1, 2025.

Private Property - Use for Recreational Purpose - Liability of Owner

ACT 100 (SB146) amends the definition of "recreational purpose" to include rock climbing, cycling, mountain biking, horseback riding, paddling, skateboarding, and hoverboarding as that term is used in relation to the liability of a property owner who makes land available to the public for recreational purposes.

Residential Developments - Requirements

ACT 1020 (HB1991) prohibits the Arkansas Fire Prevention Code from requiring a residential development to maintain two (2) or more fire apparatus access roads if the residential development is not located in a city of the first class, a city of the second class, or an incorporated town and each lot in the residential development is at least one (1) acre.

Strengthen Arkansas Homes Program

ACT 427 (SB366) creates the Strengthen Arkansas Homes Program Fund and establishes the Strengthen Arkansas Homes Program within the State Insurance Department to provide financial grants to real property owners and nonprofit organizations to assist with and promote the mitigation of losses to insurable dwellings due to catastrophic wind events. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.

REAL PROPERTY - TRANSFERS AND COVENANTS

Scrivener's Affidavits

ACT 418 (HB1479) allows a licensed engineer, surveyor, or notary public to execute and record a scrivener's affidavit in certain circumstances.

Setting Aside Decree to Quiet Title to Land - Repealed

ACT 320 (SB298) repeals the law concerning the setting aside of a decree to quiet title to land.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS - PROPERTY

Title 18

ACT 174 (HB1358) makes technical corrections recommended by the Arkansas Code Revision Commission to Title 18 of the Arkansas Code.

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

Direct Payment or Delivery of Property to an Apparent Owner

ACT 114 (SB14) provides a procedure for the direct payment or delivery of property to an apparent owner who did not file a claim under the Unclaimed Property Act.

Interest from Investment - Unclaimed Property Interest Trust Fund

ACT 430 (SB454) creates the Unclaimed Property Interest Trust Fund, requires the interest from the investment of funds subject to the Unclaimed Property Act to be deposited into the fund, and provides for the uses of the moneys in the fund. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

PUBLIC FINANCE

ACCOUNTING AND BUDGETARY PROCEDURES

Bidding Procedure for Building and Facility Construction

ACT 939 (HB1524) creates an exception to the bidding procedure for the construction of buildings and facilities to exclude from the requirements for the preparation and approval of plans and specifications certain repairs, alterations, and maintenance projects undertaken, owned, operated, or managed by the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism.

Maximum Authorized Number of Passenger Motor Vehicles

ACT 477 (HB1697) increases the maximum authorized number of passenger motor vehicles for Black River Technical College, Northwest Arkansas Community College, the University of Arkansas Community College at Rich Mountain, Southern Arkansas University - Magnolia, and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Travel Reimbursements - Special Authorizations

ACT 287 (HB1379) allows a cabinet-level secretary, director, chief executive officer, or chief fiscal officer of a department, board, or commission to provide special authorization for meals and lodging for travel on official business of the state.

BOARD OF FINANCE

Membership - Quorum - Employment of Chief Compliance Officer

ACT 204 (HB1378) amends the membership of the State Board of Finance by allowing the Governor to appoint a designee and replacing the Securities Commissioner with the Secretary of the Department of Shared Administrative Services. The act also amends the number of members that constitute a quorum for meetings of the board and repeals requirements related to the employment of a chief compliance officer by the board.

BOND ISSUES

Arkansas Natural Resources Commission - Water Development Projects

ACT 578 (SB421) authorizes the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission to issue general obligation bonds to finance and refinance the development of water, waste disposal, pollution control, abatement and prevention, drainage, irrigation, flood control, and wetlands and aquatic resources projects and requires the question of the issuance of the bonds to be submitted to voters at the 2026 general election or a special election called for that purpose.

CLAIMS AGAINST THE STATE

Transfer of Claims Commission Statutes

ACT 419 (HB1508) repeals, reorganizes, and recodifies Title 19 of the Arkansas Code, including recodifying statutes related to the Arkansas State Claims Commission in Title 25.

DEPOSIT AND INVESTMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS

Agricultural Producers

ACT 406 (SB409) prohibits discrimination against agricultural producers by financial services providers using environmental, social justice, or governance scores or metrics.

Environmental, Social Justice, or Governance Scores

ACT 252 (HB1507) clarifies that an investment that is subject to divestment due to environmental, social justice, or governance scores that may cause a financial penalty or negative financial impact to the state or a public entity is exempt from the divestment requirement.

Securities and Certificates of Deposits in Which Funds May Be Invested

ACT 739 (SB480) amends the law concerning the types of securities and certificates of deposit in which state funds may be invested.

PUBLIC FINANCE**FUNDS - SPECIAL REVENUE, TRUST, AND MISCELLANEOUS*****Alternative Motor Fuel Development Fund - Repealed***

ACT 295 (SB267) repeals the Arkansas Alternative Motor Fuel Development Act that authorized the Arkansas Energy Office of the Division of Environmental Quality to offer a rebate for certain refueling stations and for qualified alternative motor vehicle property. The act also repeals the corresponding Alternative Motor Fuel Development Fund.

Arkansas Human Trafficking Council Support Fund

ACT 667 (SB442) replaces the Human Trafficking Victim Support Fund with the Arkansas Human Trafficking Council Support Fund and redirects the fines collected from human trafficking and prostitution offenses to the new fund. The act establishes the Arkansas Human Trafficking Council Support Fund to be administered by the Division of Arkansas State Police to provide support to victims of human trafficking.

Carbon Dioxide Storage Fund

ACT 149 (HB1411) authorizes the Oil and Gas Commission to take certain actions related to administering the underground storage of carbon dioxide, the Underground Injection Control program regarding Class VI wells, and the Carbon Dioxide Storage Fund, which is established by the act.

Computer and Electronic Recycling Fund and Grants - Repealed

ACT 778 (SB369) repeals the Computer and Electronic Recycling Fund and the law concerning computer and electronic equipment recycling grants. The act also modifies the disbursement of revenues generated from the sale of agency surplus computer and electronic equipment.

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund - Repealed

ACT 493 (SB416) repeals the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Grant Program created within the Department of Energy and Environment to award grants related to the deployment of Level 2 and Level 3 charging facilities. The act also repeals the corresponding Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund.

Food Insecurity Fund

ACT 123 (SB59) creates the Food Insecurity Fund to be used to eliminate a charge to students for a reduced-price copayment for a school breakfast or a school lunch. The act requires the balance remaining in the Food Insecurity and Health Needs Set-Aside of the Restricted Reserve Fund to be transferred to the Food Insecurity Fund. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after February 20, 2025.

Home Inspectors Registration Fund and Abstracters' Board Fund - Repealed

ACT 949 (SB443) amends the duties of the State Board of Appraisers, Abstracters, and Home Inspectors by repealing the authority of the board to disburse funds collected into the Arkansas Home Inspectors Registration Fund. The act also abolishes the Arkansas Home Inspectors Registration Fund and the Arkansas Abstracters' Board Fund and transfers both funds to the State Board of Appraisers, Abstracters, and Home Inspectors Fund. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Marketing Recyclables Program and Marketing Recyclables Program Fund - Repealed

ACT 697 (SB460) modifies the membership of the Compliance Advisory Panel and repeals the Marketing Recyclables Program Fund and the Marketing Recyclables Program of the Compliance Advisory Panel, which coordinated all existing marketing programs for recyclables and encouraged the use of recyclables. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 16, 2025.

Property Tax Relief Trust Fund - Three-Fourths Vote Required

ACT 121 (HB1074) requires a distribution from the Property Tax Relief Trust Fund to be for the purpose of providing property tax relief and requires a three-fourths vote of each house of the General Assembly to use moneys in the fund for a purpose other than property tax relief.

PUBLIC FINANCE

FUNDS - SPECIAL REVENUE, TRUST, AND MISCELLANEOUS

Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Fund - Repealed

ACT 429 (SB232) eliminates the Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Small Business Revolving Loan Fund - Repealed

ACT 735 (SB367) repeals the Small Business Revolving Loan Fund and the Small Business Revolving Loan Fund for Pollution Control and Prevention Technologies Act, which authorized the Division of Environmental Quality to establish and administer a revolving loan fund to encourage investment in pollution control and prevention technologies in this state.

Unclaimed Property Interest Trust Fund

ACT 430 (SB454) creates the Unclaimed Property Interest Trust Fund, requires the interest from the investment of funds subject to the Unclaimed Property Act to be deposited into the fund, and provides for the uses of the moneys in the fund. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

GENERALLY

Recodification of Title 19

ACT 419 (HB1508) repeals, reorganizes, and recodifies Title 19 of the Arkansas Code, including adding subtitles to Title 19, moving funds to chapters instead of subchapters, reserving chapters to allow for growth in Title 19, and making technical corrections. The act also recodifies portions of Title 19 in other titles in the Arkansas Code, including recodifying statutes related to public employees' workers' compensation and unemployment compensation in Title 11 and recodifying statutes related to the Arkansas State Claims Commission in Title 25.

PURCHASING AND CONTRACTS

Combined Written Certification - Contingent Fees - Cooperative Purchasing Reports

ACT 936 (SB565) allows multiple certifications to be incorporated into a single, combined written certification under the Arkansas Procurement Law, sets a threshold for the application of the requirement that a state contract include a representation that the contractor did not retain anyone with an agreement for a contingent fee, and changes the deadline for certain reports related to purchases made under a cooperative purchasing agreement.

Construction Manager-General Contractor Method of Procurement Program

ACT 328 (HB1605) makes the Construction Manager-General Contractor Method of Procurement Program permanent for the State Highway Commission and repeals the requirement for an independent consultant study of the Construction Manager-General Contractor Method of Procurement.

Emergency Procurements - Definition of "Critical Emergency"

ACT 207 (SB166) amends the definition of "critical emergency" for purposes of emergency procurements to include a state of disaster emergency declared by the Governor.

Information Technology Contracts - Submission of Information for Review

ACT 582 (HB1470) repeals the law requiring the Office of State Procurement to ensure that the required information has been submitted to the Office of Intergovernmental Services before the execution of a contract or cooperative purchasing agreement for information technology products or services.

PUBLIC FINANCE**PURCHASING AND CONTRACTS*****Procurement - Solicitations, Negotiations, Training, and Requirements***

ACT 782 (SB538) amends the Arkansas Procurement Law by allowing a state agency to determine that a bid or proposal is unreasonable or unrealistic, requiring a minimum amount of time for the submission of proposals, clarifying certain timelines, requiring a state agency to consider the cost of proposals, requiring negotiations of proposals to be conducted by a person who has been trained and certified in negotiation and procurement processes, and providing a remedy for issues related to the creation, solicitation, award, management, or modification of a contract. The act requires a state agency to notify the Office of State Procurement before it issues a solicitation and to follow the procurement rules, policies, and guidance issued by the office. The act provides limitations on when a response to a request for information may be a prerequisite for submitting a response to a solicitation and amends the requirements for the required procurement training and certification program. The act also requires the director to repromulgate rules related to the statutory changes in the act and, after a procurement statute has been created or revised, to review and revise procurement materials to ensure the procurement materials continue to align with the procurement statute and rules.

Purchase of Promotional Items Made in China Prohibited

ACT 943 (HB1604) prohibits a state agency from spending public funds to purchase promotional items made in the People's Republic of China.

Requests for Proposals - When Revision of Proposals Allowed

ACT 206 (SB165) allows an offeror to revise its proposal for the purpose of submitting a best and final offer if discussions conducted after the deadline for the submission of proposals clarify one (1) or more requirements that necessitate the material revision of proposals. The act also allows an offeror, in response to a request for a best and final offer, to resubmit its proposal by revising its response to one (1) or more specifications of the request for proposals.

REVENUE STABILIZATION LAW***General Revenue Fund Account - Distributions - Food Insecurity Fund***

ACT 123 (SB59) requires the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration to certify the amount distributed to the General Revenue Fund Account from the sales tax and the special privilege tax on medical marijuana and requires the Treasurer of State to deduct an equal amount from the General Revenue Fund Account and transfer the amount to the Food Insecurity Fund. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after February 20, 2025.

Municipal Aid Fund - Distribution to Newly Incorporated Municipalities

ACT 620 (HB1522) allows for the distribution of funds in the Municipal Aid Fund, turnback funds, and county sales and use tax revenues to newly incorporated municipalities. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 14, 2025.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS - PUBLIC FINANCE***Title 19***

ACT 175 (HB1359) makes technical corrections recommended by the Arkansas Code Revision Commission to Title 19 of the Arkansas Code.

PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES**APPOINTMENT AND HIRING*****Critical-Need Employees***

ACT 253 (HB1514) amends the Uniform Attendance and Leave Policy Act to include the Department of the Military as a state agency that may employ a critical-need employee.

PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEESAPPOINTMENT AND HIRING***Prohibition of Discrimination and Preferential Treatment***

ACT 116 (SB3) prohibits discrimination and preferential treatment by public entities on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin and repeals laws related to diversity, equity, and affirmative action. The act also requires state agencies to report to the Legislative Council concerning their compliance with the act.

ATTENDANCE AND LEAVE***Death of a Family Member - Catastrophic Leave***

ACT 885 (SB241) allows the administrator of a catastrophic leave program to grant catastrophic leave to a public employee for the death of an immediate family member.

Healthy Employee Lifestyle Program - Participation and Rewards

ACT 444 (SB344) transfers the Healthy Employee Lifestyle Program from the Department of Health to the Department of Transformation and Shared Services and amends the program to require a state entity to allow for employee participation in the program on or before July 1, 2026. The act also requires the Department of Transformation and Shared Services to determine rewards for employees who complete the requirements of the program, including up to twenty-four (24) hours of leave per calendar year.

Military Service Credit

ACT 572 (SB357) provides credit for military service that applies to certain public employee's total service time for purposes of calculating annual leave accrual under the Uniform Attendance and Leave Policy Act.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS***Classification and Compensation of State Employees***

ACT 499 (SB392) amends Arkansas law concerning the classification and compensation of state employees, including establishing the Arkansas State Employee Student Loan Program, amending the requirements for approval of state employment by the spouse of a constitutional officer, amending the duties of the Office of Personnel Management, establishing new classification titles and grades for the state classification plan, establishing job series and job families, establishing a new compensation plan for state employees, and amending the law concerning special rates of pay, shift differentials, compensation differentials, and position pools. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Counseling for Employees Who Experience a Traumatic Event

ACT 398 (HB1505) requires a public employer to provide coverage for licensed counseling for a public safety employee who experiences a traumatic event in the line of duty. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after March 25, 2025.

Death Benefit for Public Employees Killed in the Line of Duty

ACT 414 (HB1293) increases the payment of a death benefit for public employees killed in the line of duty. The act also adds state highway employees to the public employees eligible for a death benefit.

Health Benefit Plans - Repeal Fiscal Impact Requirement

ACT 2 (HB1080) repeals the requirement for a fiscal impact statement for proposed legislation imposing a new or increased cost obligation for health benefit plans on an entity of the state and repeals the bill filing deadline for bills affecting the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program and other health benefit plans of entities of the state.

State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program

ACT 234 (SB150) amends the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program to allow the Director of the Employee Benefits Division to cooperate with the United States Government in matters pertaining to federally funded programs related to the Employee Benefits Division, including Medicare.

PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program - State Employee Retiree

ACT 451 (HB1327) amends the law concerning the eligibility of certain retired employees under the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program, clarifies and streamlines the management options of retiree health benefits, incorporates the new group Medicare Advantage plan option, establishes clear and uniform criteria for retirement benefits eligibility, updates statutory language to reflect multiple retirement plan options, and provides transparent guidelines for all stakeholders.

ETHICS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Prohibited Actions by Public Servants - Notice of Inspection

ACT 323 (HB1410) prohibits a public servant from providing advance notice of an inspection by a governmental body to a person, business, or entity subject to an inspection when the purpose of the disclosure is to improperly influence the outcome of the inspection and provides that a public servant who violates the prohibition is subject to disciplinary action.

FEES

County Sheriffs - Attempted Service and Service of a Warrant or Order of Arrest

ACT 693 (HB1872) allows a county sheriff to collect a fee for the attempted service of certain court documents and requires a fee for serving a warrant or an order of arrest to be included in the court's judgment of conviction and sentencing order.

OATH OF OFFICE

Administration of Oaths

ACT 456 (HB1597) allows the Governor to take his or her oath before a federal justice of the United States Supreme Court or a federal judge of the United States Court of Appeals or a United States District Court. The act allows a justice of the Supreme Court, a circuit court judge, a judge of the district court, the Secretary of State, the Treasurer of State, the Auditor of State, and all other officers, both civil and military, to take their oaths before a former circuit, chancery, municipal, or district court judge who served for at least four (4) years, a federal justice of the United States Supreme Court, or a federal judge of the United States Court of Appeals or a United States District Court.

RECORDS AND REPORTING

Employee Benefits Division - Data Verification

ACT 956 (SB491) requires a vendor that contracts with the Employee Benefits Division to submit data for verification of accuracy by an independent audit process developed by the Director of the Employee Benefits Division and subjects a vendor that has provided inaccurate data to a civil penalty and loss of licensure or authorization to operate in the state. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 21, 2025.

Report by Secretary of Cabinet-Level Department

ACT 219 (SB63) repeals language requiring the secretary of each cabinet-level department to provide an oral report on the state of his or her department to the Legislative Council by November 1 of each odd-numbered year.

TERMINATION

Diesel Engine Exhaust Fluid - Prohibition on Requirement

ACT 738 (SB478) provides for the termination of and a five (5) year prohibition on holding public office or obtaining public employment for a public official, agent, employee, or representative of the state who prohibits or restricts the production, sale, or use of a diesel engine that is not required to use diesel exhaust fluid and that is operated solely within this state.

PUBLIC PROPERTY**BUILDING AUTHORITY (ABA)*****Approval of Proposal for Sale or Purchase of Property***

ACT 288 (HB1499) amends the procedures for the purchase or sale of public property, including requiring the Building Authority Division's approval of a proposal for the purchase or sale of public property.

PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS***Arkansas Trails Council - Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism Representative***

ACT 276 (SB251) repeals the requirement that the representative of the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism serve as the executive secretary of the Arkansas Trails Council and requires the department to designate a representative to serve on the council.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS, FACILITIES, AND PROPERTY***Bidding Procedure for Building and Facility Construction***

ACT 939 (HB1524) creates an exception to the bidding procedure for the construction of buildings and facilities to exclude from the requirements for the preparation and approval of plans and specifications certain repairs, alterations, and maintenance projects undertaken, owned, operated, or managed by the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism.

Government Buildings - Display of the Ten Commandments - Required

ACT 573 (SB433) requires local school superintendents, local government building administrators, chief administrators of public schools and institutions of higher education, and administrative officials of state agencies to display a durable poster or framed copy of a historical representation of the Ten Commandments and authorizes the institutions and agencies to pay for a copy or poster with public funds or by accepting a private donation.

Monument on State Capitol Grounds - Desegregation of School Districts

ACT 950 (SB489) requires the Secretary of State to permit and arrange for the placement on the State Capitol grounds of a monument commemorating the desegregation of the Charleston and Fayetteville school districts in 1954.

Monument on State Capitol Grounds - Integration of Hoxie Public Schools

ACT 251 (HB1194) requires the Secretary of State to permit and arrange for the placement on the State Capitol grounds of a monument commemorating the integration of Hoxie public schools in 1955.

Notification by Commissioner of State Lands - Severance of Resources

ACT 445 (SB368) amends the state agencies that the Commissioner of State Lands is required to notify upon receipt of an application for a lease or permit for the taking or production of any sand, gravel, oil, natural gas, casinghead gas, coal, or other minerals or the severance of any timber or logs from state-owned lands.

Office of State Geologist - Oil and Gas Commission - Custodian and Disbursing Agent

ACT 442 (SB280) designates the Oil and Gas Commission as the custodian of all property and the disbursing agent of all funds of the Office of the State Geologist.

Property Insurance

ACT 560 (HB1821) allows for the creation of a captive insurance company by the State of Arkansas to provide property insurance for public schools, state-supported institutions of higher education, and state-owned property. The act creates the Office of Property Risk within the Department of Transformation and Shared Services, amends the Public Elementary and Secondary School Insurance Act to remove property insurance risks, revises the Employee Benefits Division Oversight Subcommittee to include all state insurance programs, amends the Arkansas Multi-Agency Insurance Trust Fund Act to remove property insurance risks, combines public elementary and secondary schools with state-supported institutions of higher education and state-owned property under a single program for property insurance purposes, creates the State Captive Insurance Program Act, and prohibits the use of public adjusting in property insurance claims. The act is identical to Act 779 of 2025. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 14, 2025.

PUBLIC PROPERTY**PUBLIC BUILDINGS, FACILITIES, AND PROPERTY*****Property Insurance***

ACT 779 (SB481) allows for the creation of a captive insurance company by the State of Arkansas to provide property insurance for public schools, state-supported institutions of higher education, and state-owned property. The act creates the Office of Property Risk within the Department of Transformation and Shared Services, amends the Public Elementary and Secondary School Insurance Act to remove property insurance risks, revises the Employee Benefits Division Oversight Subcommittee to include all state insurance programs, amends the Arkansas Multi-Agency Insurance Trust Fund Act to remove property insurance risks, combines public elementary and secondary schools with state-supported institutions of higher education and state-owned property under a single program for property insurance purposes, creates the State Captive Insurance Program Act, and prohibits the use of public adjusting in property insurance claims. The act is identical to Act 560 of 2025. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 17, 2025.

Sex Designation of Restrooms, Changing Rooms, and Sleeping Quarters

ACT 955 (SB486) requires domestic violence shelters, state and local correctional facilities, and public buildings to designate multi-occupancy restrooms, changing rooms, and sleeping quarters based on an individual's sex; prohibits a person from entering a restroom or changing room that is not designated for his or her sex; and prohibits a shelter, correctional facility, or public building from requiring a person to share sleeping quarters with a member of the opposite sex. The act creates exceptions for persons entering a restroom, changing room, or sleeping quarters for certain purposes and allows a shelter, correctional facility, or governmental entity to adopt policies to accommodate individuals with disabilities, certain children, and elderly persons requiring aid. The act creates a private cause of action by a person against a shelter, correctional facility, or governmental entity that violates the act if certain circumstances exist.

State Capitol - Maurice Lee "Footsie" Britt Memorial Bust

ACT 657 (HB1803) allows the development and placement of the Maurice Lee "Footsie" Britt memorial bust in the State Capitol Building and creates the Maurice Lee "Footsie" Britt Memorial Bust Fund to be used exclusively for the purpose of erecting and maintaining the Maurice Lee "Footsie" Britt memorial bust.

State-Owned Vehicles

ACT 734 (SB343) transfers certain powers and duties concerning state-owned motor vehicles from the Department of Finance and Administration to the Department of Shared Administrative Services and requires all state-owned vehicles to have a global positioning device installed on or before January 1, 2028. The sections of the act concerning motor vehicle records, the registration of state-owned motor vehicles, global positioning devices on state-owned vehicles, the purpose of the law, the allocation of state agency vehicles, and rules under the Automobile and Pickup Truck Acquisition Act are effective on and after January 1, 2026.

PUBLIC RECORDS***Destruction of Historical Records***

ACT 319 (HB1608) prohibits a handwritten record over fifty (50) years old from being destroyed without consultation and approval by the Arkansas State Archives.

SALE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY***Procedures for Purchase or Sale of Public Property***

ACT 288 (HB1499) amends the procedures for the purchase or sale of public property, including requiring the Building Authority Division's approval of a proposal for the purchase or sale of public property.

PUBLIC PROPERTY

SALE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY

Sale of Certain Property to the Westark Area Council, Inc., of the Boy Scouts of America
ACT 1026 (HB1983) amends the law concerning the sale of certain property to the Westark Area Council, Inc., of the Boy Scouts of America to clarify and confirm absolute and sole title to the subject property free and clear of any and all conditions or restrictive uses or rights of reverter in favor of the State of Arkansas with the exception of a designated area that shall be used for certain purposes.

Transfer of Tax-Forfeited Lands to State Institutions

ACT 211 (HB1121) repeals the law authorizing the Commissioner of State Lands to issue a deed for tax-forfeited land to a governmental unit.

RETIREMENT

JUDICIAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Overpayments

ACT 128 (HB1208) allows the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System to collect amounts of overpayments for debts owed to the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System, the Arkansas Judicial Retirement System, and the State Police Retirement System.

Subjection to Process and Correction of Errors

ACT 129 (HB1209) prohibits a person's right to an annuity, the annuity itself, and the return of accumulated contributions under the Arkansas Judicial Retirement System from being subject to execution, garnishment, attachment, or bankruptcy or insolvency laws and makes those rights unassignable except in certain circumstances. The act also allows for the correction of an error in the system's records and the adjustment of a payment that allows the actuarial equivalent of the benefit that the person was entitled to be paid. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after February 20, 2025.

Transfer of Funds to the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System

ACT 130 (HB1210) allows the transfer of moneys for the costs of administering the Arkansas Judicial Retirement System from the Judges Retirement Fund to the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System for administration and management of the Arkansas Judicial Retirement System.

LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE PENSION AND RELIEF FUNDS

Arkansas Policemen's Pension Supplement Program - Future Supplement Fund

ACT 151 (HB1118) requires the Arkansas Policemen's Pension Supplement Program and the Future Supplement Fund to be administered by the Department of Finance and Administration. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Delinquency of Payments

ACT 152 (HB1119) provides that a political subdivision that fails to make a payment or report to the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System within five (5) days of the date the payment or report is due is delinquent. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Qualifying Cancers in Line of Duty Death

ACT 416 (HB1322) increases the types of cancers that allow for the eligibility of payment of certain benefits when an active member in the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System dies before retirement as a result of personal injury or disease that arose in the performance of his or her employment. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Workers' Compensation Benefits

ACT 522 (HB1341) allows an active member of the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System who receives temporary workers' compensation benefits for an injury or illness during his or her covered employment to remit the temporary workers' compensation benefits to his or her employer and requires the employer to report the total pay to the system.

RETIREMENT**PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM*****Dependent Child***

ACT 364 (HB1348) amends the law under the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System and the State Police Retirement System to increase the maximum eligible age for an unmarried child who is enrolled in an institution of higher education to be considered a dependent child. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Membership of the System and the Board of Trustees

ACT 589 (SB160) makes the Arkansas Development Finance Authority a participating public employer in the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System. The act also makes the Secretary of the Department of Shared Administrative Services and the Bank Commissioner members of the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System.

Metropolitan Port Authority

ACT 311 (HB1068) amends the membership of the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System to include employees of a metropolitan port authority.

Overpayments

ACT 128 (HB1208) allows the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System to collect amounts of overpayments for debts owed to the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System, the Arkansas Judicial Retirement System, and the State Police Retirement System.

Public Transit Authority

ACT 450 (HB1268) allows a public transit authority to become a participating public employer and allows a public transit authority's employees to become members of the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System.

Receipt of Moneys from Administered Systems

ACT 130 (HB1210) allows the transfer of moneys for the costs of administering the Arkansas Judicial Retirement System from the Judges Retirement Fund to the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System for administration and management of the Arkansas Judicial Retirement System. The act also allows the transfer of moneys for the costs of administering the State Police Retirement System from the State Police Retirement Fund to the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System for administration and management of the State Police Retirement System.

Remuneration and Termination of Employment

ACT 131 (HB1211) provides that a lump-sum payment or bonus payment made to a member as a special compensation award or a recruitment incentive is remuneration under the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System and prohibits a retirant under the system from receiving annuity payments until he or she meets the requirements for terminating qualified employment.

Service Credit

ACT 286 (HB1325) allows a member of the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System to receive service credit from service under an alternate retirement plan to meet the eligibility requirements for receiving a monthly retirement benefit under the system if the employee did not vest in the alternate retirement plan or receive a payment or withdraw contributions from the alternate retirement plan for the period of covered employment.

RETIREMENT SYSTEMS - GENERALLY***Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind***

ACT 598 (HB1344) updates the name of the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind where it appeared separately as the "Arkansas School for the Blind" or the "Arkansas School for the Deaf" in the retirement laws. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 14, 2025.

RETIREMENT**RETIREMENT SYSTEMS - GENERALLY*****Benefits for City Officials***

ACT 588 (SB153) requires retirement benefits for various city officials to be paid by the city that employs the city official.

Material False Statement or Representation

ACT 112 (HB1317) prohibits a person from knowingly making a material false statement or representation to the State Department for Social Security Administration Disability Determination or a state-supported retirement system for the purpose of obtaining a benefit or payment, defeating or wrongfully increasing or decreasing a claim for benefit or payment, or aiding and abetting another person to do so. The act allows the executive director of a state-supported retirement system to refer a suspected violation for investigation to the Attorney General or to the Sixth Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney. The act also makes it a Class D felony for a person to knowingly make a material false statement or materially falsify a record in an attempt to defraud the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System, the State Police Retirement System, the Division of Arkansas State Police, or the Arkansas Judicial Retirement System. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after February 18, 2025.

Spouse's Entitlement to City Official's Retirement Benefit

ACT 413 (HB1276) allows a spouse of ten (10) years or more of a city attorney of a city of the first class or second class, deputy city clerk of a city of the first class, mayor of a city of the second class, or treasurer of a city of the first class to receive one-half (1/2) of the retirement benefit the city official was receiving or entitled to receive at the time of his or her death.

STATE POLICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM***Arkansas State Police Officers' Tier Two Deferred Retirement Option Plan***

ACT 672 (HB1336) changes the percentage of the monthly retirement benefits going into the Arkansas State Police Officers' Tier Two Deferred Retirement Option Plan account that would have been payable to an employee had the employee elected to cease employment and receive a service retirement instead of participating in the Arkansas State Police Officers' Tier Two Deferred Retirement Option Plan. The act increases the fee charged for the cost of making copies of motor vehicle accident reports and traffic violation records for a person other than a person who was involved in the accident for which the report was generated and requires a portion of the fee to be used for state police retirement benefits. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Dependent Child

ACT 364 (HB1348) amends the law under the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System and the State Police Retirement System to increase the maximum eligible age for an unmarried child who is enrolled in an institution of higher education to be considered a dependent child. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Overpayments

ACT 128 (HB1208) allows the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System to collect amounts of overpayments for debts owed to the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System, the Arkansas Judicial Retirement System, and the State Police Retirement System.

Transfer of Moneys to the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System

ACT 130 (HB1210) allows the transfer of moneys for the costs of administering the State Police Retirement System from the State Police Retirement Fund to the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System for administration and management of the State Police Retirement System.

RETIREMENT**STATE POLICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM*****Unmarried Children Enrolled in Institutions of Higher Education***

ACT 127 (HB1207) amends the law under the State Police Retirement System regarding survivors' benefits for the surviving unmarried children of an officer killed in the line of duty while not a member of the system by increasing the maximum eligible age for an unmarried child who is enrolled in an institution of higher education.

TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM***Beneficiary Election***

ACT 222 (HB1154) provides for the payment of an Arkansas Teacher Retirement System retiree's reduced annuity in certain circumstances to each dependent child designated as the retiree's Option B beneficiary upon the retiree's death. The act also provides a deadline for a system residue beneficiary who is eligible to elect an Option A annuity to submit his or her election form. The act provides that a new employee of a post-secondary or higher education employer participating in the system is eligible to participate in a post-secondary or higher education plan if the employee's employer determines that he or she is benefits-eligible and he or she meets certain requirements. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Change of Election

ACT 226 (HB1158) allows a member of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System who participated in the Teacher Deferred Retirement Option to cancel his or her original election and elect another distribution option if he or she meets certain requirements. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Dependent Child Annuity

ACT 225 (HB1157) increases the maximum age a deceased active member's child is eligible for the dependent child annuity under the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System and provides that a surviving child of a retiree who dies after returning to work or a surviving child of a disability retiree is eligible for a dependent child annuity if he or she has not been designated as an option beneficiary of the retiree. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Disability Retirement Benefits

ACT 223 (HB1155) creates a rebuttable presumption of qualification for disability retirement benefits under the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System when a member submits a favorable determination letter from the Social Security Administration finding that the member is unable to perform his or her current work duties or has a service-connected disability rating from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs finding that the member has a one hundred percent (100%) total and permanent disability. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Early Childhood Workers

ACT 587 (SB148) allows an early childhood worker who works at a licensed childcare facility that provides teaching, early childhood education, or supervision for a child enrolled in a licensed childcare facility to participate in the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System.

Early Retirement for Higher Education Staff

ACT 249 (HB1326) removes the requirement that faculty of institutions of higher education be tenured to negotiate special allowances for early retirement and broadens the ability of presidents and chancellors to negotiate special allowances for early retirement to staff members who are not considered faculty. The act removes the requirement that the amount of special allowances negotiated for early retirement not exceed a certain amount. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after March 6, 2025.

RETIREMENT

TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Election to Change Annuity Option

ACT 228 (HB1161) requires a change to a retiree's election of an annuity option that was made at retirement to be requested within one (1) year of retirement under the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Permissive Service Credit - Gap Periods

ACT 227 (HB1160) changes the meaning of a "gap period" under the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System for purposes of permissive service credit. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Special Needs Trust

ACT 363 (HB1347) allows the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System to pay an annuity or benefit owed to a person to a special needs trust that is established for the benefit of the person. The act is effective on and after July 1, 2026.

Survivor Annuity

ACT 224 (HB1156) provides that a surviving spouse is eligible for survivor annuity benefits under the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System if he or she was married to an active member for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the active member's death. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS - RETIREMENT AND PENSIONS

Title 24

ACT 178 (HB1362) makes technical corrections recommended by the Arkansas Code Revision Commission to Title 24 of the Arkansas Code.

STATE AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS

ACCOUNTANTS

Board of Public Accountancy - Substantial Equivalency and Practice Review

ACT 428 (SB432) allows the Arkansas State Board of Public Accountancy to determine substantial equivalency requirements, provide parameters encompassing substantial equivalency, and require by rule a practice review of every certified public accountant and firm licensed in the state. The act also amends various provisions of the law concerning accountants, including the waiver of an examination fee for the initial licensure of an accountant and the reinstatement and revocation of a lapsed accountant license.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES - GENERALLY

Exemption - Proclamation to Set Per-Mile Deduction

ACT 614 (SB412) authorizes the Department of Finance and Administration to set the per-mile amount for the income tax deduction for travel and transportation expenses by proclamation and exempts the proclamation from the definition of a "rule" for purposes of the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act and review and approval by the legislature.

Reporting, Sunset, and Extension of Administrative Rules

ACT 21 (SB56) amends the law concerning the reporting, sunset, and extension of administrative rules to allow the Governor to amend the rule review groups subject to reporting. The act also prohibits the amendment of rule review groups that results in the rules of an agency being evaluated more than twelve (12) years from the agency's last evaluation.

STATE AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONSADMINISTRATIVE RULES - GENERALLY***Watersheds and Other Bodies of Water - Moratorium on Rulemaking***

ACT 921 (SB290) prohibits moratoriums on the issuance of permits in watersheds and other bodies of water. The act establishes the process to institute a moratorium related to a watershed or other body of water and provides for the expiration of the moratorium. The act provides that a committee or subcommittee voting not to approve a rule to institute a moratorium in watersheds or other bodies of water is not required to state grounds. The act requires the Department of Agriculture to utilize the rules on Liquid Animal Water Management Systems until the department adopts final rules regarding liquid animal waste management systems. The act is effective on and after February 1, 2026.

AGRICULTURE***Authority - Fertilizer***

ACT 530 (HB1774) transfers authority related to fertilizer from the State Plant Board to the Department of Agriculture and requires the department to invoice a responsible party based on the ton or fractional ton of fertilizer included in the tonnage report.

Authority - Liming Materials

ACT 526 (HB1741) transfers authority related to liming materials from the State Plant Board to the Department of Agriculture and requires the department to invoice a responsible party based on the total tonnage included in the quarterly tonnage report.

Authority - Seed Certification

ACT 527 (HB1742) transfers authority concerning seed certification from the State Plant Board to the Department of Agriculture and requires the department to invoice a responsible party for payment of costs related to the inspection, certification, promotion, and advertising of certified seed.

Law Enforcement - Award of Pistol

ACT 326 (HB1516) authorizes the award of the pistol carried by a Department of Agriculture law enforcement officer to the law enforcement officer upon his or her retirement or, if the law enforcement officer is deceased, to his or her spouse.

Transfer of Certain Duties to the Department of Agriculture

ACT 292 (SB250) amends provisions of law regarding pest control and transfers certain duties of the State Plant Board related to pest control to the Department of Agriculture.

ATHLETICS***Professional Wrestling Events***

ACT 947 (HB1952) requires the State Athletic Commission to govern a professional wrestling event with one thousand five hundred (1,500) or more attendees. The act adds "professional wrestling" to the definition of "combative sports" in the law pertaining to combative sporting events and amends the requirements for a promoter following a combative sports match.

CLAIMS AGAINST THE STATE***Transfer of Claims Commission Statutes***

ACT 419 (HB1508) repeals, reorganizes, and recodifies Title 19 of the Arkansas Code, including recodifying statutes related to the Arkansas State Claims Commission in Title 25.

COMMERCE***Office of Skills Development - State Apprenticeship Agency***

ACT 695 (SB390) repeals the law concerning apprenticeship training programs, creates the State Apprenticeship Agency within the Office of Skills Development to serve as the state registration agency for apprenticeship programs, and authorizes the agency to resolve disputes between parties to an apprenticeship agreement. The act also establishes the Arkansas Apprenticeship Council and abolishes the Arkansas Apprenticeship Coordination Steering Committee.

STATE AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS**CORRECTIONS*****Recidivism Reduction - Needs and Risks***

ACT 670 (SB485) requires any conditions for probation, parole, or post-release supervision to be narrowly tailored to account for the rehabilitation of the supervised person and his or her specific risks and needs. The act requires the Administrative Office of the Courts to consult with the Department of Corrections to develop training and judicial education on the use of evidence-based practices to reduce recidivism and requires the Division of Community Correction and the Division of Correction to develop incentives and sanctions to encourage prosocial behavior and sanction violations. The act requires the department to annually evaluate public and private treatment and service providers.

Recidivism Reduction System

ACT 694 (HB1931) creates a recidivism reduction system within the Department of Corrections to address factors that lead to recidivism by requiring a validated risk and needs assessment to be conducted and a case plan to be developed for each inmate and by requiring the Department of Corrections to provide recidivism reduction programs and activities and specific reentry preparation and services to inmates. The act requires the Board of Corrections to report to the Governor and the General Assembly on various aspects of the recidivism reduction system, requires the Department of Inspector General to perform biennial audits of the recidivism reduction system, and requires the Superintendent of the Arkansas Correctional School District, in coordination with the Department of Education, to conduct a feasibility study to implement improvements to the Arkansas Correctional School District. The act is identical to Act 769 of 2025. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 16, 2025.

ACT 769 (SB590) creates a recidivism reduction system within the Department of Corrections to address factors that lead to recidivism by requiring a validated risk and needs assessment to be conducted and a case plan to be developed for each inmate and by requiring the Department of Corrections to provide recidivism reduction programs and activities and specific reentry preparation and services to inmates. The act requires the Board of Corrections to report to the Governor and the General Assembly on various aspects of the recidivism reduction system, requires the Department of Inspector General to perform biennial audits of the recidivism reduction system, and requires the Superintendent of the Arkansas Correctional School District, in coordination with the Department of Education, to conduct a feasibility study to implement improvements to the Arkansas Correctional School District. The act is identical to Act 694 of 2025. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 17, 2025.

DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY (ADFA)***Participation in Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System***

ACT 589 (SB160) makes the Arkansas Development Finance Authority a participating public employer in the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System.

Transfer - Independent Instrumentality of the State

ACT 944 (HB1797) transfers the Arkansas Development Finance Authority out of the Department of Commerce as an independent instrumentality of the state and exempts the authority from certain state laws, including laws related to the expenditure of cash funds, procurement, rule promulgation, and state employee compensation and benefits. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (AEDC)***Appointment Based on Congressional District***

ACT 324 (HB1460) amends the appointment of a member to the Arkansas Economic Development Council based on a congressional district to require that the appointment be based on the district as it exists at the time of the appointment.

STATE AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (AEDC)

Arkansas Industry Training Program - Reporting Requirement - Repealed

ACT 446 (SB378) repeals the requirement that the Arkansas Economic Development Commission submit a quarterly report concerning the training activities of the Arkansas Industry Training Program.

Foreign Offices - Reporting Requirement - Repealed

ACT 447 (SB388) repeals the annual reporting requirement related to the progress of foreign offices of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission.

Healthy Food Retailer Program - Creation

ACT 870 (HB1965) requires the Arkansas Economic Development Commission to establish the Healthy Food Retailer Program to provide funding to retailers that sell affordable, high-quality, fresh produce and other affordable healthy food in communities with limited access to healthy, nutritional food. The act allows the commission to enter into a public-private partnership for the design and administration of the program.

Rural Services Division - Reporting Requirement - Repealed

ACT 469 (SB385) repeals the requirement that the Rural Services Division of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission submit a biennial report concerning the activities of the division.

EDUCATION - HIGHER

Classified and Unclassified Employees

ACT 402 (SB417) removes the term "unclassified" from the law related to overtime, incentives, and differentials for direct and indirect patient care personnel at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. The act also removes classified employees of state-supported institutions of higher education from the law related to financial incentives to decrease use of sick leave.

EMPLOYEES - GENERALLY

Classification and Compensation of State Employees

ACT 499 (SB392) amends Arkansas law concerning the classification and compensation of state employees, including establishing the Arkansas State Employee Student Loan Program, amending the requirements for approval of state employment by the spouse of a constitutional officer, amending the duties of the Office of Personnel Management, establishing new classification titles and grades for the state classification plan, establishing job series and job families, establishing a new compensation plan for state employees, and amending the law concerning special rates of pay, shift differentials, compensation differentials, and position pools. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Counseling for Public Employees Who Experience a Traumatic Event

ACT 398 (HB1505) requires a public employer to provide coverage for licensed counseling for a public safety employee who experiences a traumatic event in the line of duty. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after March 25, 2025.

Critical-Need Employees

ACT 253 (HB1514) amends the Uniform Attendance and Leave Policy Act to include the Department of the Military as a state agency that may employ a critical-need employee.

E-Verify - Requirement

ACT 948 (HB1974) requires a state employer to verify all new employees through the E-Verify system, prohibits the employment of unauthorized aliens, and authorizes the Department of Labor and Licensing to enforce the act. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.

STATE AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS**EMPLOYEES - GENERALLY*****Healthy Employee Lifestyle Program - Transfer***

ACT 444 (SB344) transfers the Healthy Employee Lifestyle Program from the Department of Health to the Department of Transformation and Shared Services and amends the program to require a state entity to allow for employee participation in the program on or before July 1, 2026. The act also requires the Department of Transformation and Shared Services to determine rewards for employees who complete the requirements of the program, including up to twenty-four (24) hours of leave per calendar year.

Policy for Use of Artificial Intelligence

ACT 848 (HB1958) requires a public entity to create a policy that defines the authorized use of artificial intelligence and automated decision tools and requires an authorized human employee or designee to make any final decision during his or her employment, regardless of what an artificial intelligence or automated decision tool recommends.

ETHICS***Establishment of Campaign Contribution Limit***

ACT 270 (HB1369) provides the timeline for adjusting the maximum campaign contribution limit by the Arkansas Ethics Commission following the certification of a change to the Federal Election Commission by the United States Secretary of Labor, provides that the maximum campaign contribution limit is not a rule, and requires the revised maximum campaign contribution limit to be effective when published on the official website of the Arkansas Ethics Commission. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after March 12, 2025.

FEES AND PENALTIES - GENERALLY***Diesel Engine Exhaust Fluid - Prohibition on Requirement***

ACT 738 (SB478) creates a civil penalty for each violation of the law against prohibiting or restricting the production, sale, or use of a diesel engine that is not required to use diesel exhaust fluid and that is operated solely within this state and provides for the suspension of the authority of a state agency or political subdivision of the state that enforces state laws or regulations related to vehicle emissions for at least twelve (12) months for a violation of the law.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (DFA)***Administration of Sales and Use Tax Exemption - Qualified Data Centers***

ACT 548 (HB1444) transfers the administration of the sales and use tax exemption for qualified data centers to the Department of Finance and Administration. The act is effective on and after October 1, 2025.

Alcoholic Beverages Reporting Requirement - Repealed

ACT 471 (SB389) repeals the law requiring the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration to submit a report concerning the manufacture and consumption of alcoholic beverages in the state and the taxes and permit fees collected on alcoholic beverages.

Arkansas Policemen's Pension Supplement Program - Future Supplement Fund

ACT 151 (HB1118) requires the Arkansas Policemen's Pension Supplement Program and the Future Supplement Fund to be administered by the Department of Finance and Administration. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Assessment Coordination Division - Assessment of Affordable Housing

ACT 842 (HB1894) requires the Assessment Coordination Division to promulgate rules for assessing real property that has federally imposed or state-imposed restrictions that use rent limitations, operations requirements, or any other restrictions on the real property that are related to affordable housing programs.

STATE AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (DFA)*****Authorization to Set Per-Mile Deduction by Proclamation***

ACT 614 (SB412) authorizes the Department of Finance and Administration to set the per-mile amount for the income tax deduction for travel and transportation expenses by proclamation and exempts the proclamation from the definition of a "rule" for purposes of the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act and review and approval by the legislature.

Bond Issues - Program Fact Sheet Requirement - Repealed

ACT 468 (SB384) repeals the requirement that the Arkansas Development Finance Authority submit a program fact sheet to the Legislative Council and Arkansas Legislative Audit for each new bond issue.

Capital Access Fund Reporting Requirement - Repealed

ACT 466 (SB382) repeals the requirement that the Arkansas Development Finance Authority submit a report concerning the Capital Access Fund.

Electronic Lien, Titling, and Registration Systems - Electronic Signatures and Disclosures

ACT 926 (HB1845) allows an odometer disclosure to be made electronically, a registration certificate or certificate of title to be signed electronically, and a lien, lien release, security interest, or an application for a registration or certificate of title to be transmitted electronically to the Office of Motor Vehicle. The act also authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration to implement an electronic lien system, electronic titling system, and electronic registration system and establishes the requirements for a qualified vendor to provide those systems via a no-cost option to the state. The provisions allowing the electronic transmission of documents are effective only if the Office of Motor Vehicle implements the electronic lien system, electronic titling system, and electronic registration system.

Expiration of Local Sales and Use Tax - Requirement to Notify Local Government

ACT 720 (SB577) requires the Department of Finance and Administration to notify a local government when the local government has a sales and use tax that is set to expire.

Fiscal Impact Statements

ACT 457 (HB1637) requires the Department of Finance and Administration to prepare a fiscal impact statement for statewide initiative and referendum measures and legislatively referred constitutional amendments and requires that the fiscal impact statement appear on the ballot.

Multistate Tax Commission - Reporting Requirement - Repealed

ACT 465 (SB381) repeals the law requiring the Department of Finance and Administration to submit a report concerning the activities of the Multistate Tax Commission and Arkansas's participation in the activities of the commission.

Regulatory Division and Regulatory Enforcement Division - Creation

ACT 837 (HB1898) combines the regulatory and enforcement functions related to tobacco, medical marijuana, and alcoholic beverages in the Department of Finance and Administration by creating the Regulatory Division and the Regulatory Enforcement Division and allows for personnel of the Regulatory Enforcement Division to be designated as agents with law enforcement authority.

Secretary - Prohibition on Change in Certain Tax Assessments

ACT 498 (HB1716) prohibits the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration from assessing sales or use taxes against a taxpayer on an item of tangible personal property for which the taxpayer has previously appealed the assessment of sales or use tax or the denial of a refund of sales or use tax and received a decision that the item qualified for an exemption. The act provides an exception from the prohibition if there has been a change in a rule or law or in case law.

STATE AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (DFA)

Venture Capital Investment Act of 2001 Reporting Requirement - Repealed

ACT 467 (SB383) repeals the annual report required concerning the activities of the investor group designated by the Arkansas Development Finance Authority and the use, redemption, and transfer of any tax credits allowed under the Venture Capital Investment Act of 2001.

FORESTRY AND FORESTERS

Violations and Penalties

ACT 291 (SB249) allows the Arkansas Forestry Commission to impose a civil penalty for a violation relating to forestry and to promulgate rules to establish a penalty matrix for these violations.

GENERALLY

2030 Arkansas Complete Count Committee - Creation

ACT 449 (SB403) creates the 2030 Arkansas Complete Count Committee to plan and conduct statewide educational and outreach initiatives to increase community awareness and participation in the 2030 federal decennial census.

Appointments Based on Congressional District

ACT 324 (HB1460) amends appointments to certain boards, councils, and commissions based on a congressional district to require that the appointment be based on the district as it exists at the time of the appointment. The act amends the laws providing appointments based on congressional district to the Arkansas Economic Development Council, the Arkansas Rural Development Commission, the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board, and the Arkansas Motor Vehicle Commission.

Arkansas Board of Examiners in Counseling - Provisional License

ACT 231 (HB1256) requires the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Counseling to issue a provisional license for a licensed associate counselor or a licensed associate marriage and family therapist.

Arkansas Commission for the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Initiative - Abolished

ACT 104 (HB1310) amends the law that establishes a network of postnatal tissue and fluid banks for collection and storage of postnatal tissue and fluid and creates the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Bank. The act also abolishes the Arkansas Commission for the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Initiative and transfers the authority, duties, functions, records, contracts, personnel, property, and funds to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after February 18, 2025.

Arkansas Fair Housing Commission - Membership

ACT 562 (HB1774) reduces and modifies the membership of the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission. The act also provides that the changes in membership do not shorten the term of any current member of the commission and shall be implemented as the terms of the commission expire or vacancies are filled.

Arkansas Self-Funded Cyber Response Program

ACT 656 (HB1666) repeals the cyber response panel under the Arkansas Self-Funded Cyber Response Program and requires the program to be secondary to any insurance a participating governmental entity may have and to be used to reimburse a participating governmental entity for identified losses.

Computer and Electronic Solid Waste Management - Transferred Duties

ACT 208 (SB185) transfers the duty to determine the price of surplus computer equipment and electronics for sale and the duty to establish statewide contracts for computer and electronics recycling and demanufacturing businesses using the Computer and Electronic Recycling Fund from the Department of Finance and Administration to the Department of Transformation and Shared Services.

STATE AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS**GENERALLY*****Electronic Legal Materials***

ACT 814 (HB1739) adopts the Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act. The act requires an official publisher of legal materials in an electronic format, including the Arkansas Constitution, the Arkansas Code, the Code of Arkansas Rules, and a state agency rule, to designate the electronic record as official and to authenticate the record. The act also requires an official publisher to preserve and secure official legal materials and ensure that the materials are available for use by the public. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.

Nuclear Planning and Response Program - Transfer

ACT 583 (HB1690) transfers the Nuclear Planning and Response Program from the Department of Health to the Division of Emergency Management. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Prohibition of Discrimination and Preferential Treatment

ACT 116 (SB3) prohibits discrimination and preferential treatment by public entities on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin and repeals laws related to diversity, equity, and affirmative action. The act also requires state agencies to report to the Legislative Council concerning their compliance with the act.

Purchase of Promotional Items Made in China Prohibited

ACT 943 (HB1604) prohibits a state agency from spending public funds to purchase promotional items made in the People's Republic of China.

Racial, Gender, and Diversity Quotas and Qualifications - Removed

ACT 938 (HB1365) removes racial, gender, and diversity quotas and qualification requirements for membership on the Arkansas Financial Education Committee, the State Board of Education, the Commission on Closing the Achievement Gap in Arkansas, the local task forces on closing the achievement gap, the local advisory group related to education renewal zones, the local community college boards, the Professional Bail Bond Company and Professional Bail Bondsman Licensing Board, the State Athletic Commission, the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Counseling, the Arkansas State Occupational Therapy Examining Committee, the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy, the State Interagency Council, the Child and Adolescent Service System Program Coordinating Council, the Board of Developmental Disabilities Services, the Rita Rowell Hale Prenatal and Early Childhood Nurse Home Visitation Program Advisory Council, the Capital Zoning District Commission, the Health and Economic Outcomes Accountability Oversight Advisory Panel, and the Arkansas Tobacco Control Board. The act also repeals the laws concerning appointment recommendations by minority health-related professional associations to state health-related agencies, boards, and commissions.

Recognition of Judea and Samaria in Official Government Material

ACT 797 (HB1929) prohibits state agencies from using the term "West Bank" to refer to Judea and Samaria in official government materials. The act also prohibits state agencies from using state moneys to create an official government material that refers to Judea and Samaria as "West Bank."

Special Authorization for Travel Reimbursements

ACT 287 (HB1379) allows a cabinet-level secretary, director, chief executive officer, or chief fiscal officer of a department, board, or commission to provide special authorization for meals and lodging for travel on official business of the state.

STATE AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONSHEALTH***Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee - Creation***

ACT 863 (HB1767) abolishes the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council, creates the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee, and transfers the powers and duties of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee and the State Board of Health. The act allows the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee to make recommendations for rules to be adopted by the State Board of Health on all matters relating to emergency medical services. The act also transfers the licensing of emergency medical personnel and duties pertaining to the EMS Enhancement Revolving Fund from the Division of Emergency Medical Services to the Department of Health.

Emergency Medical Services Funding

ACT 1021 (HB1841) creates a special revenue fund to support emergency medical services agencies, sets eligibility requirements and establishes an application process for emergency medical services agencies to receive funding, and provides for the distribution of moneys in the fund to qualified emergency medical services agencies based on county population. The act requires the State Board of Health to implement the act.

Maternal Outcomes Management System

ACT 868 (HB1869) creates the Maternal Outcomes Management System within the Department of Health to organize maternal health resources, establish a maternal designation system, provide grants for birthing and delivery hospitals, establish the MOMS Care Connect call center in conjunction with the Arkansas Trauma Call Center to coordinate transfer of pregnant women between hospitals, and establish the Postpartum Support Hotline to proactively reach out to mothers post-delivery.

State Kidney Disease Commission

ACT 852 (HB1456) amends the State Kidney Disease Commission to become an advisory council to the Department of Health. The act provides that the terms of the members of the commission expire on the effective date of the act and requires the State Board of Health to appoint new members to the advisory council.

HERITAGE DIVISION***Arkansas 2036 Commission***

ACT 946 (HB1846) creates the Arkansas 2036 Commission to promote a statewide observance of the two hundredth birthday of Arkansas, explore the possible construction of a commemorative landmark that promotes tourism to the state, cooperate and assist the Division of Arkansas Heritage with programs commemorating the two hundredth birthday of the state, and provide assistance for the development of programs, projects, and activities promoting the history and heritage of the state.

Arkansas Wine Producers Council - Transfer

ACT 462 (SB370) transfers the Arkansas Wine Producers Council from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Bidding Procedure for Building and Facility Construction

ACT 939 (HB1524) creates an exception to the bidding procedure for the construction of buildings and facilities to exclude from the requirements for the preparation and approval of plans and specifications certain repairs, alterations, and maintenance projects undertaken, owned, operated, or managed by the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism.

Creation of the Office of Outdoor Recreation

ACT 318 (HB1607) creates the Office of Outdoor Recreation within the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism to administer the FUN Parks Grants Program and transfers the administration of the program from the department to the office.

STATE AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS**HUMAN SERVICES*****Child Support Enforcement Program Reporting Requirement - Repealed***

ACT 439 (SB380) repeals the law requiring the Office of Child Support Enforcement to submit a report concerning the Child Support Enforcement Program.

Foster Home Training Requirements

ACT 824 (HB1921) prohibits the Division of Children and Family Services from requiring a foster home to obtain more than fifteen (15) hours of initial training to become an approved foster home or six (6) hours of annual training to maintain the foster home's status as an approved foster home. The act also prohibits the division from requiring a provisional foster home to undergo the same amount of hourly training as a nonprovisional foster home.

Inpatient Treatment Services for Substance Use Disorder

ACT 632 (HB1559) requires the Department of Human Services to develop and submit an application for a demonstrative waiver to allow coverage for inpatient treatment of substance use disorder in facilities that qualify as institutions for mental diseases. The act also requires the department to report annually to the General Assembly on the status of the waiver application, the implementation progress, and the outcomes of the expanded coverage.

Private Care Agency Certification Removed

ACT 853 (HB1439) removes the certification process of the Department of Human Services that the private care agency is providing home- and community-based health services from the requirements for licensure as a private care agency by the Department of Health.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS***Data Transparency Panel - Abolishment and Transfer***

ACT 375 (HB1548) abolishes the Data Transparency Panel of the Division of Information Systems and transfers the powers and duties of the panel to the Division of Information Systems. The act amends the statewide shared services data hub to share state information and requires each cabinet-level department to assign a data steward to serve as the primary contact between the division and the department for purposes of sharing state information. The act also requires that state information be shared only if doing so does not violate state and federal confidentiality and disclosure laws.

Division of Information Systems - Name Change

ACT 412 (HB1647) changes the name of the Division of Information Systems to the Office of State Technology. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Information Network of Arkansas - Abolishment and Transfer

ACT 716 (HB1896) abolishes the Information Network of Arkansas and transfers certain duties of the Information Network of Arkansas to the Division of Information Systems. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.

State Cybersecurity Office

ACT 489 (HB1549) creates the State Cybersecurity Office and outlines the office's duties and powers.

Statewide Information Technology Standards

ACT 480 (HB1557) requires the Division of Information Systems to implement a statewide disaster recovery plan that directs each state agency to mitigate risk and outlines how each state agency project may be approved by the division. The act requires the division to establish and enforce statewide minimum mandatory standards for information technology and provide an annual report on the statewide information technology plan and projects to the Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology.

Website Domain Extensions

ACT 929 (HB1951) requires a state agency, board, or commission to use a ".gov" or ".mil" website domain extension unless certain circumstances exist. The act is effective on and after June 1, 2026.

STATE AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS

INSPECTOR GENERAL

Division of Ombudsman

ACT 825 (HB1964) transfers the Child Welfare Ombudsman Division of the Arkansas Child Abuse/Rape/Domestic Violence Commission and the Juvenile Ombudsman Division of the Arkansas Public Defender Commission to the Department of Inspector General. The act also creates the Division of Ombudsman within the department and creates the Office of the Child Welfare Ombudsman and the Office of the Juvenile Ombudsman within the Division of Ombudsman. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Office of Internal Audit - Annual Project Review

ACT 704 (SB562) repeals the requirement for the Office of Internal Audit to conduct an annual project review of the Arkansas Department of Transportation.

INSURANCE

Public School and State Employee Health Benefit Advisory Commissions

ACT 143 (SB134) amends the frequency of meetings of the Public School Employee Health Benefit Advisory Commission and the State Employee Health Benefit Advisory Commission and reduces the stipend for members of the commissions who are not active employees.

Public School and State Employee Health Benefit Advisory Commissions - Stipend

ACT 756 (SB508) amends Acts 2025, No. 143, concerning the frequency of payment of a stipend for members of the Public School Employee Health Benefit Advisory Commission and the State Employee Health Benefit Advisory Commission.

LABOR AND LICENSING

Code Enforcement Section

ACT 746 (SB627) amends the Code Enforcement Section of the Department of Labor and Licensing and transfers all duties of the Director of the Division of Labor pertaining to boiler inspection to the Secretary of the Department of Labor and Licensing.

Secretary of the Department of Labor and Licensing - Duties

ACT 737 (SB439) eliminates the Director of the Division of Labor position and transfers the duties of the director to the Secretary of the Department of Labor and Licensing. The act grants the secretary authority concerning the boards, commissions, and divisions of the Department of Labor and Licensing and allows the secretary to serve or designate an individual to serve on behalf of the secretary on any board, commission, section, or division for which the secretary or any other agent or employee of the department is designated to serve. The act also allows the secretary to structure, restructure, or organize the staff and duties of a board, commission, section, or division of the department.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Transfer of Office of Criminal Detention Facilities Review Coordinator

ACT 953 (HB1842) transfers the Office of Criminal Detention Facilities Review Coordinator to the Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training within the Department of Public Safety.

LOTTERY

Office of Arkansas Lottery - Law Enforcement Authority

ACT 342 (SB231) confers law enforcement authority on certain employees of the Office of the Arkansas Lottery.

Office of Arkansas Lottery - Reporting

ACT 429 (SB232) amends the contents of the Office of the Arkansas Lottery's annual comprehensive financial report. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

STATE AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS

MEDICAL BOARD

Credentialing Information

ACT 851 (HB1458) amends the definition of "credentialing information" to remove the requirement to provide the status of United States Drug Enforcement Administration certificates when the Arkansas State Medical Board is providing information to credentialing organizations.

MOTOR VEHICLES

Arkansas Motor Vehicle Commission

ACT 816 (HB1834) allows the Arkansas Motor Vehicle Commission to deny an application for a motor vehicle dealer license or revoke or suspend a motor vehicle dealer license after it has been granted if the motor vehicle dealer uses or permits the use of a dealer's extra license plate by an authorized or unauthorized user for any purpose other than permitted under Arkansas law.

Disclosure of Driver and Vehicle Records

ACT 581 (SB498) amends Arkansas law concerning the disclosure of driver and vehicle records, including amending the law pertaining to the records prepared under the seal of the Office of Motor Vehicle and specifying to whom the Office of Driver Services may provide a digital driver's license photograph and an abstract or driver confirmation record of a driver's record.

Motor Vehicle Commission - Congressional District Appointment

ACT 324 (HB1460) amends the appointment of a member to the Arkansas Motor Vehicle Commission based on a congressional district to require that the appointment be based on the district as it exists at the time of the appointment.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural Resources Committee - Membership

ACT 445 (SB368) reduces and changes the membership of the Natural Resources Committee.

NURSING BOARD

Registered Dialysis Patient Care Technician

ACT 198 (HB1183) authorizes the Arkansas State Board of Nursing to register individuals who meet certain requirements as dialysis patient care technicians to administer direct patient care and hemodialysis under the authority of a registered nurse.

OIL AND GAS

Custodian and Disbursing Agent - Office of State Geologist Property and Funds

ACT 442 (SB280) designates the Oil and Gas Commission as the custodian of all property and the disbursing agent of all funds of the Office of the State Geologist.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board - Congressional District Appointment

ACT 324 (HB1460) amends the appointment of a member to the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board based on a congressional district to require that the appointment be based on the district as it exists at the time of the appointment.

PHARMACY BOARD

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Program - Emergency Medication Kit

ACT 637 (HB1677) authorizes an alcohol and drug abuse treatment program to maintain an emergency medication kit if the alcohol and drug abuse treatment program has a physician or other medical personnel on staff and can administer the controlled substances and noncontrolled legend drugs and requires the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy to adopt rules regarding the emergency medication kit.

STATE AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS**PHARMACY BOARD*****Prohibition on Limiting Prescription Medications to Limited Distribution Networks***

ACT 630 (HB1531) regulates the ability of pharmaceutical manufacturers and pharmaceutical manufacturers for Medicaid to restrict or limit prescription medications to a limited distribution network of pharmacies. The act also prohibits a state government and public plan sponsor for a health benefit plan from paying for prescription medications from a pharmaceutical manufacturer or a pharmaceutical manufacturer for Medicaid who is noncompliant and allows the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy to fine a pharmaceutical manufacturer for noncompliance. The act requires that a pharmaceutical manufacturer or pharmaceutical manufacturer for Medicaid be in compliance with the act on or before September 1, 2026.

PROCUREMENT***Prohibition on Purchasing Certain Electric Vehicles and Components***

ACT 924 (HB1683) prohibits a governmental entity from procuring an electric vehicle or a component of an electric vehicle unless the manufacturer certifies that no entity involved in the production of the electric vehicle or the component of an electric vehicle uses forced labor. The act also provides for remedies against a manufacturer that knowingly provides false or misleading information and a governmental entity or an employee of a governmental entity that knowingly violates the prohibition.

Requirements for Notification, Solicitation, and Training

ACT 782 (SB538) amends the Arkansas Procurement Law by allowing a state agency to determine that a bid or proposal is unreasonable or unrealistic, requiring a minimum amount of time for the submission of proposals, clarifying certain timelines, requiring a state agency to consider the cost of proposals, requiring negotiations of proposals to be conducted by a person who has been trained and certified in negotiation and procurement processes, and providing a remedy for issues related to the creation, solicitation, award, management, or modification of a contract. The act requires a state agency to notify the Office of State Procurement before it issues a solicitation and to follow the procurement rules, policies, and guidance issued by the office. The act provides limitations on when a response to a request for information may be a prerequisite for submitting a response to a solicitation and amends the requirements for the required procurement training and certification program. The act also requires the director to repromulgate rules related to the statutory changes in the act and, after a procurement statute has been created or revised, to review and revise procurement materials to ensure the procurement materials continue to align with the procurement statute and rules.

PSYCHOLOGY BOARD***Membership - Behavior Analyst***

ACT 869 (HB1954) requires that the membership of the Arkansas Psychology Board include at least one (1) licensed psychologist who is a board-certified behavior analyst, is a qualified behavior analyst, or has a background and experience in providing behavior analysis services.

REAL ESTATE***Arkansas Real Estate Commission - Continuing Education Exemptions***

ACT 559 (HB1794) creates continuing education exemptions for a salesperson, associate broker, principal broker, or executive broker licensee who meets an age requirement and other criteria. The act also allows the Executive Director of the Arkansas Real Estate Commission to waive all or part of the continuing education requirements of a licensee on the basis of health-related concerns or restrictions or in recognition of the licensee's achievements.

STATE AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS

RECORDS AND REPORTS - GENERALLY

Prohibited Investments - Reporting

ACT 937 (HB1352) prohibits a public investment entity, a service provider contracted by a public investment entity, and all other fiduciaries from knowingly taking certain actions related to investments and financial decisions with certain foreign entities; requires annual reporting and mandatory divestment in certain circumstances; and provides exemptions for private equity and venture capital investments and immunity for certain actors related to the removal of an asset.

Report by Secretary of Cabinet-Level Department

ACT 219 (SB63) repeals language requiring the secretary of each cabinet-level department to provide an oral report on the state of his or her department to the Legislative Council by November 1 of each odd-numbered year.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Rural Development Commission - Congressional District Appointment

ACT 324 (HB1460) amends the appointment of a member to the Arkansas Rural Development Commission based on a congressional district to require that the appointment be based on the district as it exists at the time of the appointment.

SHARED ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Employee Benefits Division - Vendor Data Verification

ACT 956 (SB491) requires a vendor that contracts with the Employee Benefits Division to submit data for verification of accuracy by an independent audit process developed by the Director of the Employee Benefits Division and subjects a vendor that has provided inaccurate data to a civil penalty and loss of licensure or authorization to operate in the state. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 21, 2025.

Name Change

ACT 205 (SB147) changes the name of the Department of Transformation and Shared Services to the Department of Shared Administrative Services. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

STATE BOARD OF APPRAISERS, ABSTRACTERS, AND HOME INSPECTORS

Duties

ACT 949 (SB443) amends the duties of the State Board of Appraisers, Abstracters, and Home Inspectors by repealing the prohibition of a board member acting as an investigator and repealing the authority of the board to disburse funds collected into the Arkansas Home Inspectors Registration Fund, to employ legal counsel to represent the board, and to contract for administrative support services. The act also repeals the requirement that disciplinary hearings conducted by the board for the purpose of deciding whether to levy civil penalties be executive sessions under the Freedom of Information Act of 1967. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

STATE HOLIDAYS

Arkansas Music Appreciation Day - Date Change

ACT 260 (HB1556) changes Arkansas Music Appreciation Day to March 1.

Arkansas Music Appreciation Day - Musicians to be Honored

ACT 203 (HB1368) adds musicians to the list of musicians honored on Arkansas Music Appreciation Day.

STATE LIBRARY BOARD

Reconstitution

ACT 903 (SB640) reconstitutes the State Library Board, terminates the terms of all current members of the State Library Board, and requires the Governor to appoint new members to the board.

STATE AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS

STATE POLICE

Human Trafficking Prevention

ACT 667 (SB442) creates the Human Trafficking Operations Unit within the Division of Arkansas State Police and eliminates the State Task Force for the Prevention of Human Trafficking. The act creates the positions of Human Trafficking Coordinator and Human Trafficking Analyst within the Division of Arkansas State Police.

STATE SYMBOLS

Official State Canine

ACT 823 (HB1886) designates the labrador retriever as the official canine of the State of Arkansas.

Official State Duck

ACT 215 (HB1417) designates the mallard duck as the official duck of the State of Arkansas.

STATE-OWNED MOTOR VEHICLES - GENERALLY

State-Owned Vehicles

ACT 734 (SB343) transfers certain powers and duties concerning state-owned motor vehicles from the Department of Finance and Administration to the Department of Shared Administrative Services and requires all state-owned vehicles to have a global positioning device installed on or before January 1, 2028. The sections of the act concerning motor vehicle records, the registration of state-owned motor vehicles, global positioning devices on state-owned vehicles, the purpose of the law, the allocation of state agency vehicles, and rules under the Automobile and Pickup Truck Acquisition Act are effective on and after January 1, 2026.

TAX APPEALS COMMISSION

Commissioners and Employees - Pleadings - Small Claims

ACT 617 (SB529) amends the Independent Tax Appeals Commission Act to provide a process for the filing and consideration of appeals of small claims, allow for the appointment of a commissioner who is not a licensed attorney or certified public accountant, repeal the requirement that the Tax Appeals Commission hire a staff attorney and an accountant, amend the requirements for filing pleadings with the commission, and allow the commission to stay proceedings and require the parties to confer concerning a voluntary resolution of the dispute.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS - STATE GOVERNMENT

Title 1

ACT 163 (SB170) makes technical corrections recommended by the Arkansas Code Revision Commission to Title 1 of the Arkansas Code.

Title 25

ACT 179 (HB1363) makes technical corrections recommended by the Arkansas Code Revision Commission to Title 25 of the Arkansas Code.

TOWING AND RECOVERY

Arkansas Towing and Recovery Board - Membership - Fees for Cargo - Complaints

ACT 932 (HB2001) removes the current members of the Arkansas Towing and Recovery Board, creates new requirements for the membership of the board, allows the Governor to appoint members for new terms to the board, and allows the Director of the Arkansas Towing and Recovery Board to exercise the powers and duties assigned to the board in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Labor and Licensing. The act also provides for the continuation of complaints filed with the board, creates new requirements for the reclamation of cargo from a towing and storage firm, and requires towing and storage firms to display a notice on a towing and storage invoice of the process for filing a complaint with the board. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 21, 2025.

STATE AGENCIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS

TRANSPORTATION

Annual Project Review

ACT 704 (SB562) repeals the requirement for the Office of Internal Audit to conduct an annual project review of the Arkansas Department of Transportation.

Surplus Property - Market Value Determination

ACT 210 (HB1486) requires the market value determination of property declared surplus by the State Highway Commission to be determined by two (2) certified or licensed appraisers.

WORKFORCE SERVICES

Office of Skills Development

ACT 743 (SB598) creates the Office of Skills Development within the Division of Workforce Services.

TAXES

ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL TAXES

Assessment - Jurisdiction of County Equalization Board

ACT 486 (HB1760) provides that a county equalization board does not have jurisdiction over a county assessor's determination of whether a property qualifies for homestead property tax relief and requires a petition for certain claims for an adjustment of a property assessment to be filed with the county court of the county in which the property is located.

Assessment of Property - Rules Related to the Assessment of Affordable Housing

ACT 842 (HB1894) requires the Assessment Coordination Division to promulgate rules for assessing real property that has federally imposed or state-imposed restrictions that use rent limitations, operations requirements, or any other restrictions on the real property that are related to affordable housing programs.

Property Tax - Time for Assessment - Property Acquired April 1 - May 31

ACT 551 (HB1759) increases the amount of time a taxpayer has to assess tangible personal property acquired during April and May to sixty (60) days from the date of acquisition.

Property Tax Statement - Inclusion of Notification of Property Tax Relief

ACT 877 (HB1627) requires that the property tax statement sent to a taxpayer notify the taxpayer of the property tax relief provided for individuals with a disability and persons who are sixty-five (65) years of age or older.

ADMINISTRATION OF STATE TAXES

Change in Assessment of Sales and Use Tax on Tangible Personal Property

ACT 498 (HB1716) prohibits the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration from assessing sales or use taxes against a taxpayer on an item of tangible personal property for which the taxpayer has previously appealed the assessment of sales or use tax or the denial of a refund of sales or use tax and received a decision that the item qualified for an exemption. The act provides an exception from the prohibition if there has been a change in a rule or law or in case law.

Superiority of Tax Liens - Purchase Money Mortgage

ACT 29 (HB1273) provides that a lien created by the entry of a certificate of indebtedness issued by the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration is not superior to a purchase money mortgage.

Tax Advisory Council Reporting Requirement - Repealed

ACT 464 (SB379) repeals the law requiring the Tax Advisory Council to submit a report.

Tax Appeals Commission - Commissioners and Employees - Pleadings - Small Claims

ACT 617 (SB529) amends the Independent Tax Appeals Commission Act to provide a process for the filing and consideration of appeals of small claims, allow for the appointment of a commissioner who is not a licensed attorney or certified public accountant, repeal the requirement that the Tax Appeals Commission hire a staff attorney and an accountant, amend the requirements for filing pleadings with the commission, and allow the commission to stay proceedings and require the parties to confer concerning a voluntary resolution of the dispute.

TAXES**COLLECTION AND ENFORCEMENT*****Payment of Property Tax - Penalty - Exemption for Deployed Taxpayers***

ACT 550 (HB1658) defines "deployment" for purposes of the exception to the assessment of penalties related to the payment of property taxes for deployed taxpayers and requires a taxpayer who is exempt from payment of the penalty to provide evidence of his or her date of deployment.

Payment of Real Property Tax by Person Facilitating a Real Estate Closing

ACT 521 (HB1274) requires a county collector to respond within a certain time period to a request from a person facilitating the closing of a real estate transaction for a statement of all property taxes owed for the property subject to the closing and any delinquent personal property taxes owed by the owner of the property. The act requires the county collector to accept payment of property taxes due on the property subject to the closing without requiring the payment of any personal property taxes owed by the owner of the property if the county collector does not respond to the request for a statement of property taxes owed within the required time period.

Redemption of Tax-Delinquent Property - Disabled Veteran Exempt from Penalty

ACT 259 (HB1400) provides that a disabled veteran is not subject to the penalty imposed on tax-delinquent property when the disabled veteran redeems a tax-delinquent parcel owned by the disabled veteran if the disabled veteran meets the requirements to claim a property tax exemption and meets the other requirements to redeem the tax-delinquent property.

Setoff Against Tax Return - Claimant Agencies

ACT 411 (HB1497) adds the Department of the Military to the list of claimant agencies that may seek a setoff against a person's state tax refund. The act adds a fine imposed by the department as a nonjudicial punishment and a fine from a court-martial to the definition of "debt" for the purpose of a setoff against a person's state tax refund.

INCOME TAX***Apportionment - Market-Based Sourcing***

ACT 719 (SB567) changes the method for the sourcing of receipts for services and intangibles from the cost of performance to market-based sourcing for purposes of determining the apportionment of income derived from multistate operations. The act is effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

Credit - Modernization and Automation Tax Credit

ACT 882 (HB1935) creates the modernization and automation tax credit for businesses that invest in projects in the state. The act is effective on and after October 1, 2025.

Credit - Relocation of Corporate Headquarters - Investment Tax Credit

ACT 881 (HB1922) allows an entity to use the investment tax credit allowed under the Consolidated Incentive Act of 2003 to offset its income tax or sales tax liability, changes the amount of the investment tax credit that the Arkansas Economic Development Commission may offer, repeals the tax incentives offered for technology-based enterprises, and creates an income tax credit for businesses that relocate their corporate headquarters to Arkansas. The act also creates a claw-back provision for businesses that receive tax incentives but do not satisfy the annual payroll requirements for the tax incentives. The act is effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

Credit - Sustainable Aviation Fuel

ACT 546 (HB1303) creates an income tax credit for a qualified manufacturer of sustainable aviation fuel and provides the requirements for a qualified manufacturer of sustainable aviation fuel and a qualified sustainable aviation fuel project to be eligible for the credit. The act is effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

TAXES**INCOME TAX*****Credit - Wood Energy Products and Forest Maintenance***

ACT 701 (SB530) amends the Arkansas Wood Energy Products and Forest Maintenance Income Tax Credit to include wood byproducts, increase the required investment and job-creation amounts for a project to qualify for the income tax credit, and decrease the amount of the income tax credit allowed. The act is identical to Act 709 of 2025. The act is effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

ACT 709 (HB1657) amends the Arkansas Wood Energy Products and Forest Maintenance Income Tax Credit to include wood byproducts, increase the required investment and job-creation amounts for a project to qualify for the income tax credit, and decrease the amount of the income tax credit allowed. The act is identical to Act 701 of 2025. The act is effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

Deduction - Teacher Classroom Investment - Increase

ACT 878 (HB1732) increases the amount of the income tax deduction allowed for a teacher's classroom investments to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per taxpayer. The act is effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

Exemption - Contributions from Tax-Deferred Tuition Savings Program to Roth IRA

ACT 802 (HB1085) adopts federal law to provide an income tax exemption for rollover contributions from a tax-deferred tuition savings program, including an Arkansas Brighter Future Fund Plan, to a Roth IRA. The act is effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024.

Exemption - NIL Income from Institution of Higher Education

ACT 839 (HB1917) exempts income received by a student-athlete from an institution of higher education as compensation for the use of his or her name, image, or likeness or as a percentage of institutional athletic revenue from state income tax. The act is effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

Exemption - USDA Disaster Relief Payments

ACT 696 (SB408) provides an income tax exemption for certain disaster relief payments by the United States Department of Agriculture. The act is effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

Withholding - Electronic Filing Required

ACT 616 (SB503) requires an employer that has at least seventy-five (75) employees to file its annual income tax withholding statement electronically and requires an employer that is required to file its annual statement of withholding electronically to file its withholding return electronically. The section of the act concerning the requirement to file an annual income tax withholding statement electronically based on the employer's number of employees is effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, and the section of the act concerning the requirement to file an annual statement of withholding electronically if the employer's withholding return is required to be filed electronically is effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

LOCAL SALES AND USE TAXES***Food and Food Ingredients***

ACT 1008 (HB1685) creates the Grocery Tax Relief Act, exempts food and food ingredients from state sales and use taxes, and provides that the sale of food and food ingredients continues to be subject to local sales and use taxes. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.

TAXESLOCAL SALES AND USE TAXES***Maximum Tax Limitation - Sales and Leases Involving Periodic Payments***

ACT 1013 (HB1960) provides that the lessee of a leased motor vehicle is the owner of the leased motor vehicle for purposes of the assessment and payment of property taxes and provides for the manner in which the maximum tax limitation applies to local sales and use taxes on a sale or lease that involves periodic payments. The sections of the act concerning property taxes are effective for assessment years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, and the sections of the act concerning sales and use taxes are effective on and after October 1, 2025.

Notification by Department of Finance and Administration that Tax Is Set to Expire

ACT 720 (SB577) requires the Department of Finance and Administration to notify a local government when the local government has a sales and use tax that is set to expire.

MULTISTATE TAX COMPACT***Apportionment of Income - Market-Based Sourcing***

ACT 719 (SB567) changes the method for the sourcing of receipts for services and intangibles from the cost of performance to market-based sourcing for purposes of determining the apportionment of income derived from multistate operations. The act is effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

Multistate Tax Commission - Reporting Requirement - Repealed

ACT 465 (SB381) repeals the law requiring the Department of Finance and Administration to submit a report concerning the activities of the Multistate Tax Commission and Arkansas's participation in the activities of the commission.

PRIVILEGE TAXES***Medical Marijuana Special Privilege Tax - Repeal Sunset***

ACT 380 (SB219) repeals the sunset provision of the Arkansas Medical Marijuana Special Privilege Tax Act of 2017. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after March 20, 2025.

Tobacco Products - Consolidation of Permits

ACT 717 (SB494) consolidates several tobacco products permits into the Manufacturer Tobacco Products, Vapor Products, Alternative Nicotine Products, or E-liquid Products Only Permit.

Tobacco Products - Definition of "Invoice" and "Invoice Price"

ACT 718 (SB495) amends the definitions of "invoice" and "invoice price" under the Arkansas Tobacco Products Tax Act of 1977 to require the inclusion of certain information on an invoice and to provide for the determination of the invoice price in the absence of proof of the price paid for the tobacco product, vapor product, alternative nicotine product, or e-liquid product.

PROPERTY TAX***Assessment and Payment by Owner of a Leased Motor Vehicle***

ACT 1013 (HB1960) provides that the lessee of a leased motor vehicle is the owner of the leased motor vehicle for purposes of the assessment and payment of property taxes and provides for the manner in which the maximum tax limitation applies to local sales and use taxes on a sale or lease that involves periodic payments. The sections of the act concerning property taxes are effective for assessment years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, and the sections of the act concerning sales and use taxes are effective on and after October 1, 2025.

Credit - Increase Homestead Property Tax Credit

ACT 330 (SB263) increases the homestead property tax credit to six hundred dollars (\$600). The act is effective for assessment years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

TAXES**PROPERTY TAX*****Definition of "Substantial Improvement" - Consideration of Out-of-State Property***

ACT 410 (HB1386) defines "substantial improvement" for purposes of property tax relief and the assessment of property, prohibits the consideration of real property located outside of the state in determining the true market value of residential real property within the state, and allows the consideration of real property located outside of the state in determining the true market value of commercial real property in certain circumstances. The act is effective for assessment years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

Exemption - Disabled Veterans - Annual Submission of Letter Not Required

ACT 876 (HB1072) provides that the letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs that is required to be submitted to establish eligibility for the property tax exemption for disabled veterans is not required to be submitted annually and requires a taxpayer who has previously submitted a letter to notify the county collector if there are any changes in his or her eligibility for the exemption or in the use or ownership of the property that is the subject of the exemption. The act also allows a county collector to levy and collect up to three (3) years of property taxes, interest, and penalties if the property tax exemption is granted erroneously. The act is effective for assessment years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

Exemption - Disabled Veterans - Definition of "Homestead"

ACT 407 (HB1129) amends the definition of "homestead" for purposes of the property tax exemption for disabled veterans and their surviving spouses and minor dependent children to increase the number of acres included as part of the homestead. The act is effective for assessment years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

Exemption - Disabled Veterans - Homestead Owned by a Trust or LLC

ACT 880 (HB1809) allows for property owned by a trust or a limited liability company to qualify as a homestead for purposes of the property tax exemption for disabled veterans and surviving spouses and minor dependent children of disabled veterans in certain circumstances. The act is effective for assessment years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

Exemption - Leased Motor Vehicle Used Exclusively for Public Charity

ACT 497 (HB1691) provides a property tax exemption for motor vehicles that are used exclusively for purposes of public charity and are subject to a lease of at least twelve (12) months by a public charity. The act is effective for assessment years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

Method of Valuation - Oil and Gas Well Production Equipment

ACT 821 (HB1937) amends the method of valuation for oil and gas well production equipment. The act is effective for assessment years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

Methods of Valuation - Definitions

ACT 783 (SB573) defines terms used in the methods of valuation used for purposes of property tax. The act is effective for assessment years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

Property Tax Relief Trust Fund - Three-Fourths Vote Required

ACT 121 (HB1074) requires a distribution from the Property Tax Relief Trust Fund to be for the purpose of providing property tax relief and requires a three-fourths vote of each house of the General Assembly to use moneys in the fund for a purpose other than property tax relief.

Statement - Requirement to Provide Notification of Property Tax Relief

ACT 877 (HB1627) requires that the property tax statement sent to a taxpayer notify the taxpayer of the property tax relief provided for individuals with a disability and persons who are sixty-five (65) years of age or older.

TAXES**SEVERANCE TAXES*****Distribution of Tax on Salt Water Used for Bromine and Lithium Extraction***

ACT 1012 (SB568) amends the law concerning the distribution of the severance tax on salt water used for bromine and lithium extraction. The act is effective on and after October 1, 2025.

STATE SALES AND USE TAXES***Credit - Investment Tax Credit - Requirements and Amount of Credit***

ACT 881 (HB1922) allows an entity to use the investment tax credit allowed under the Consolidated Incentive Act of 2003 to offset its income tax or sales tax liability, changes the amount of the investment tax credit that the Arkansas Economic Development Commission may offer, repeals the tax incentives offered for technology-based enterprises, and creates a claw-back provision for businesses that receive tax incentives but do not satisfy the annual payroll requirements for the tax incentives. The act is effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

Credit - Modernization and Automation Tax Credit

ACT 882 (HB1935) creates the modernization and automation tax credit for businesses that invest in projects in the state. The act is effective on and after October 1, 2025.

Direct Payment of Tax on a Dealer's Sale of a Motorboat

ACT 1019 (SB638) provides for the direct payment of sales and use tax to the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration on a motorboat sold by a motorboat dealer. The act is effective on and after October 1, 2025.

Exemption - Aircraft Held for Resale - Eligibility

ACT 879 (HB1807) amends the law concerning the persons eligible for the sales tax exemption for aircraft held for resale and used for rental or charter. The act is effective on and after October 1, 2025.

Exemption - Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts - Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts Foundation

ACT 781 (SB535) creates a sales and use tax exemption for the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts and the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts Foundation. The act is effective on and after October 1, 2025.

Exemption - Food and Food Ingredients

ACT 1008 (HB1685) creates the Grocery Tax Relief Act, exempts food and food ingredients from state sales and use taxes, and provides that the sale of food and food ingredients continues to be subject to local sales and use taxes. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.

Exemption - Food Sold in School or College Cafeteria or Dining Facility

ACT 714 (HB1851) amends the sales tax exemption for food, food ingredients, and prepared food sold in a public, common, high school, or college cafeteria or lunch room to include food sold in a public, common, high school, or college cafeteria or dining facility that contracts for services or management from a for-profit third party. The act is effective on and after October 1, 2025.

Exemption - Lithium Resource Development - Electronic Waste

ACT 1012 (SB568) provides a sales and use tax exemption for lithium resource development and amends the law concerning the distribution of the severance tax on salt water used for bromine and lithium extraction. The act also includes electronic waste in the definition of "solid waste" for purposes of the sales and use tax exemption for waste reduction, reuse, or recycling equipment. The act is effective on and after October 1, 2025.

TAXES**STATE SALES AND USE TAXES*****Exemption - Qualified Data Centers and Qualified Large Data Centers***

ACT 548 (HB1444) amends the definition of "qualified data center" for purposes of the sales and use tax exemption for data centers, extends the sales and use tax exemption to qualified large data centers, transfers the administration of the exemption to the Department of Finance and Administration, and requires annual certification that a qualified data center or qualified large data center meets the investment and aggregate annualized compensation requirements for the exemption. The act provides for the revocation of an approved financial incentive certificate if a qualified data center or qualified large data center does not meet the investment and aggregate annualized compensation requirements for the exemption. The act is effective on and after October 1, 2025.

Exemption - Qualified Nonprofit Organizations

ACT 1007 (HB1671) creates a sales and use tax exemption for sales to a qualified nonprofit organization subject to certain exceptions. The act is effective on and after October 1, 2025.

Exemption - Textbooks and Instructional Materials for Schools

ACT 329 (SB200) includes items leased for use in interscholastic extracurricular activities or the administration or maintenance of a school in the sales tax exemption for textbooks and other instructional materials.

Exemption Certificates - Farmer Sales Tax Identification Card

ACT 621 (HB1594) creates a farmer sales tax identification card that an eligible farmer may present to a seller in lieu of an exemption certificate to claim a sales or use tax exemption. The act allows the Department of Finance and Administration to assess sales or use tax, interest, and a penalty against a purchaser who claims an exemption to which he or she was not eligible. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.

Prohibition on Change in Assessment of Tax on Tangible Personal Property

ACT 498 (HB1716) prohibits the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration from assessing sales or use taxes against a taxpayer on an item of tangible personal property for which the taxpayer has previously appealed the assessment of sales or use tax or the denial of a refund of sales or use tax and received a decision that the item qualified for an exemption. The act provides an exception from the prohibition if there has been a change in a rule or law or in case law.

Use of Dealer's Extra License Plate

ACT 710 (HB1688) provides the permitted uses of a dealer's extra license plate and provides that any use of a new or used motor vehicle for sale to which a dealer's extra license plate has been attached does not constitute a withdrawal from stock and is otherwise exempt from sales and use tax.

TECHNOLOGY**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE*****Ownership of Generated Content***

ACT 927 (HB1876) provides that a person who provides input or a directive to a generative artificial intelligence tool to generate content or conduct model training is the owner of the generated content or model training data unless the content or data infringes on existing copyrights or intellectual property rights. The act also provides that when an individual is directed by his or her employer to use a generative artificial intelligence tool to conduct model training or generate content as part of his or her employment duties, the model training data or generated content is the property of the individual's employer.

Right of Publicity

ACT 159 (HB1071) allows an individual whose photograph, voice, or likeness is reproduced using artificial intelligence and used for unauthorized commercial purposes to bring a lawsuit for damages and to recover lost profits, funds, goods, or services from the unauthorized commercial use.

TECHNOLOGY

COMPUTERS AND SOFTWARE

Computer and Electronic Solid Waste Management

ACT 208 (SB185) transfers the duty to determine the price of surplus computer equipment and electronics for sale and the duty to establish statewide contracts for computer and electronics recycling and demanufacturing businesses using the Computer and Electronic Recycling Fund from the Department of Finance and Administration to the Department of Transformation and Shared Services.

State Cybersecurity Office

ACT 489 (HB1549) creates the State Cybersecurity Office and outlines the office's duties and powers.

Unsolicited Commercial Text Messages

ACT 847 (HB1957) prohibits unsolicited commercial and sexually explicit text messages and sets out the requirements a commercial text message must satisfy to not violate this prohibition.

EDUCATION

Website Domain Extensions

ACT 929 (HB1951) requires an institution of higher education to use a ".edu" website domain extension unless certain circumstances exist. The act is effective on and after June 1, 2026.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Arkansas Self-Funded Cyber Response Program

ACT 656 (HB1666) repeals the cyber response panel under the Arkansas Self-Funded Cyber Response Program and requires the program to be secondary to any insurance a participating governmental entity may have and to be used to reimburse a participating governmental entity for identified losses.

Data Transparency Panel - Abolishment and Transfer

ACT 375 (HB1548) abolishes the Data Transparency Panel of the Division of Information Systems and transfers the powers and duties of the panel to the Division of Information Systems. The act amends the statewide shared services data hub to share state information and requires each cabinet-level department to assign a data steward to serve as the primary contact between the division and the department for purposes of sharing state information. The act also requires that state information be shared only if doing so does not violate state and federal confidentiality and disclosure laws.

Division of Information Systems - Name Change

ACT 412 (HB1647) changes the name of the Division of Information Systems to the Office of State Technology. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Information Network of Arkansas - Abolishment and Transfer

ACT 716 (HB1896) abolishes the Information Network of Arkansas and transfers certain duties of the Information Network of Arkansas to the Division of Information Systems. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.

TECHNOLOGY**SOCIAL MEDIA*****Collection of Information of Child or Teen***

ACT 952 (HB1717) prohibits an operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application directed at children or teens from collecting personal information from a child or teen without providing clear and conspicuous notice of what information is being collected, the purpose for processing the child or teen's personal data, the disclosure practices for the information, the rights and opportunities available to the parent of the child or teen, the categories of personal data shared with third parties, and the categories of third parties with whom the controller shares the data. The act requires an operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application to provide an opportunity to request the deletion of a child's account or content or information submitted by the child and to challenge the accuracy of the personal information provided by a child. The act requires an operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application to obtain verifiable parental consent for the collection, use, or disclosure of personal information from a parent of a teen except in limited circumstances. The act allows the Attorney General to bring a civil action against an operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application that commits a violation of the act. The act is effective on and after July 1, 2026.

Compensation for Content Creation by Minor

ACT 982 (HB1975) allows a minor who is thirteen (13) years of age or older to produce, create, and publish his or her own content and entitles a minor to all compensation for his or her own content creation. The act requires a content creator whose content features a minor engaged in the work of content creation to maintain records that document certain data of the minor and his or her content creation until the minor reaches twenty-one (21) years of age. The act requires a content creator to set aside the gross earnings of a minor lawfully engaged in content creation in a trust account and to preserve the trust account for the benefit of the minor until he or she reaches eighteen (18) years of age. The act is effective on and after July 1, 2026.

Liability for Suicide or Suicide Attempt

ACT 901 (SB612) prohibits a social media platform from using a design, algorithm, or feature that the social media platform knows or should have known causes a user to purchase a controlled substance, develop an eating disorder, commit or attempt to commit suicide, or develop or sustain an addiction to the social media platform. The act creates a private right of action and imposes a civil penalty for the use of a design, algorithm, or feature by a social media platform that knowingly and willfully contributes to the suicide or the attempted suicide of a minor that results in significant bodily or cognitive harm.

Protections for Minors

ACT 900 (SB611) amends the Social Media Safety Act to change the definition of "minor" to an individual under sixteen (16) years of age who is in the state. The act prohibits a social media platform from engaging in practices that evoke any addiction or compulsory behaviors in a minor and requires a social media platform to ensure that, by default, notifications to a minor are ceased during certain hours. The act requires privacy and safety settings for a minor on a covered social media platform to be at the most protective level available and requires a social media platform to implement measures to prevent circumvention of age verification protocols. The act also creates the Crimes Against Children Fund to be used by the Attorney General to investigate and bring actions under the Social Media Safety Act. The provisions of the act that prohibit certain practices of a social media platform and that create requirements related to notifications and privacy and safety settings are effective on and after April 21, 2026.

TECHNOLOGY

STATE GOVERNMENT

Policy for Use of Artificial Intelligence

ACT 848 (HB1958) requires a public entity to create a policy that defines the authorized use of artificial intelligence and automated decision tools and requires an authorized human employee or designee to make any final decision during his or her employment, regardless of what an artificial intelligence or automated decision tool recommends.

Statewide Information Technology Standards

ACT 480 (HB1557) requires the Division of Information Systems to implement a statewide disaster recovery plan that directs each state agency to mitigate risk and outlines how each state agency project may be approved by the division. The act requires the division to establish and enforce statewide minimum mandatory standards for information technology and provide an annual report on the statewide information technology plan and projects to the Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology.

Website Domain Extensions

ACT 929 (HB1951) requires a state agency, board, or commission to use a ".gov" or ".mil" website domain extension unless certain circumstances exist. The act is effective on and after June 1, 2026.

TOBACCO

ENFORCEMENT

Confiscation of Tobacco Products and Vapor Products from a Minor at School

ACT 669 (SB449) provides civil immunity for a law enforcement officer, a school employee, or a person in a position of trust or authority over a minor if he or she confiscates nicotine, tobacco products, vapor products, alternative nicotine products, e-liquid products, cigarette papers, or a product that he or she reasonably believes to be a vapor product from a minor at a school.

REGULATION

Consolidation of Permits

ACT 717 (SB494) consolidates several tobacco products permits into the Manufacturer Tobacco Products, Vapor Products, Alternative Nicotine Products, or E-liquid Products Only Permit.

Definition of "Invoice" and "Invoice Price"

ACT 718 (SB495) amends the definitions of "invoice" and "invoice price" under the Arkansas Tobacco Products Tax Act of 1977 to require the inclusion of certain information on an invoice and to provide for the determination of the invoice price in the absence of proof of the price paid for the tobacco product, vapor product, alternative nicotine product, or e-liquid product.

Manufacturer Directory for Vapor Products and E-Liquid Products

ACT 590 (SB252) creates a manufacturer directory for vapor products and e-liquid products under Arkansas Tobacco Control. The act also recodifies statutes relating to safety inspections, child-resistant packaging, advertising prohibitions, contaminated or adulterated products, and the prohibition of possession in or on the grounds of a school, childcare facility, or healthcare facility.

TOURISM

CULTURAL RESOURCES, MUSEUMS, AND LIBRARIES

State Librarian and Regional Library System Directors - Requirements

ACT 242 (SB181) amends the requirements for the State Librarian to allow work experience in the field of library science as a substitution for a master's degree from an accredited graduate school of library science. The act also amends the requirements for regional library directors for regional library systems to allow work experience in the field of library operations as a substitution for a master's degree from an accredited program in library operations.

TOURISM

CULTURAL RESOURCES, MUSEUMS, AND LIBRARIES

State Library Board - Reconstitution

ACT 903 (SB640) reconstitutes the State Library Board, terminates the terms of all current members of the State Library Board, and requires the Governor to appoint new members to the board.

PARKS AND TOURISM DEPARTMENT

Arkansas 2036 Commission

ACT 946 (HB1846) creates the Arkansas 2036 Commission to promote a statewide observance of the two hundredth birthday of Arkansas, explore the possible construction of a commemorative landmark that promotes tourism to the state, cooperate and assist the Division of Arkansas Heritage with programs commemorating the two hundredth birthday of the state, and provide assistance for the development of programs, projects, and activities promoting the history and heritage of the state.

Arkansas Trails Council - Representative

ACT 276 (SB251) repeals the requirement that the representative of the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism serve as the executive secretary of the Arkansas Trails Council and requires the department to designate a representative to serve on the council.

Creation of the Office of Outdoor Recreation

ACT 318 (HB1607) creates the Office of Outdoor Recreation within the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism to administer the FUN Parks Grants Program and transfers the administration of the program from the department to the office.

PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT

Natural State Initiative Opportunity Zones

ACT 838 (HB1923) amends the definition of "eligible company" to reduce the minimum standards for investment in a tourism attraction project for a company to be eligible for inducements under the Arkansas Tourism Development Act and increases the boundary for a Natural State Initiative Opportunity Zone to one (1) mile outside the boundaries of a state park, a cultural or historic site, or a cultural or educational center.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS - NATURAL RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Title 15

ACT 169 (SB176) makes technical corrections recommended by the Arkansas Code Revision Commission to Title 15 of the Arkansas Code.

UTILITIES

ELECTRIC

Electric Generation Units - Settlement Agreements

ACT 580 (SB463) requires the Arkansas Public Service Commission to approve or deny a settlement agreement concerning the closing, deactivation, or decommissioning of an electric generation unit or transmission asset between a public utility and certain entities and requires that notice of proposed settlement agreements be submitted to the commission.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity - Exempt Wholesale Generators

ACT 705 (SB594) amends the law concerning exemptions for certificates of public convenience and necessity for new construction to supply a public service or to extend a public service to exempt equipment or facilities a majority of which are owned by one (1) or more exempt wholesale generators.

Dispatchable Electric Generation Facility - Retirement

ACT 940 (SB596) establishes a state energy policy and regulates the retirement of certain dispatchable electric generation facilities in the state. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 21, 2025.

UTILITIES**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION*****Municipal Utility - Exemption***

ACT 712 (HB1814) revises the definition of "public utility" to clarify that municipal authority over a board- or commission-based public utility is governed by the rules established by a municipal board or commission and that a noncommissioned public utility is governed by the rules established for the noncommissioned utility.

One Call Center - Membership

ACT 813 (HB1735) clarifies the mandatory membership requirements of an operator of an underground facility in the One Call Center and establishes a fine to be assessed against an operator of an underground facility for failure to become a member of the One Call Center within thirty (30) days of a written warning. The act allows for an additional fine for each thirty (30) days the operator of an underground facility fails to become a member of the One Call Center.

One Call Center - Permissible Equipment and Tools

ACT 448 (SB401) clarifies the type of equipment and tools that are permissible to move earth that does not require notice to the One Call Center under the Arkansas Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act.

Settlement Agreements - Approval Required

ACT 580 (SB463) requires the Arkansas Public Service Commission to approve or deny a settlement agreement concerning the closing, deactivation, or decommissioning of an electric generation unit or transmission asset between a public utility and certain entities and requires that notice of proposed settlement agreements be submitted to the commission.

Wind Energy

ACT 945 (SB437) creates a regulatory framework for the development and operation of wind energy facilities in the state, including provisions for permitting, local legislative involvement, and safety standards. The act requires a permit for any construction, operation, or redevelopment of wind energy facilities; requires compliance with local legislation; and provides the necessary steps for obtaining a permit. The act exempts wind energy facility projects under development as of April 9, 2025.

RATES AND CHARGES***Strategic Investments***

ACT 373 (SB307) provides for strategic investments in electric utility infrastructure and natural gas utility infrastructure to provide for the construction of new utility generation infrastructure, redesigns the regulatory framework for existing electric utilities and natural gas utilities, provides discretion to the Arkansas Public Service Commission in regulating utilities, implements recovery of costs for construction work in progress, and requires approval of strategic investments by the commission. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after March 20, 2025.

Strategic Investments - Review of Annual Update Filing

ACT 745 (SB610) amends Acts 2025, No. 373, to change the time allowed for review of an annual update filing by the Arkansas Public Service Commission and to correct an engrossing error. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after April 17, 2025.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS - PUBLIC UTILITIES AND REGULATED INDUSTRIES***Title 23***

ACT 177 (HB1361) makes technical corrections recommended by the Arkansas Code Revision Commission to Title 23 of the Arkansas Code.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS***Transmitting Utility***

ACT 584 (HB1737) revises the definition of "transmitting utility" to include the provision of fiber optic communication service, broadband internet service, or similar high-speed data transmission services under the Transmitting Utility Act.

UTILITIES**TRANSPORTATION*****Relocation of Utility Facilities - Penalties - Rules***

ACT 699 (SB492) creates a process by which a utility facility located on a public transportation facility may be removed, relocated, or adjusted. The act provides the requirements for notice to a utility before the relocation of a utility facility, for an agreement between the Department of Transportation and a utility for the relocation of a utility facility, and for a utility when a utility facility is relocated. The act creates a civil penalty for a utility that fails to meet the requirements in the department's rules or in the agreement between the department and the utility and creates a notice and appeals process for the civil penalty. The act also creates standards for the creation of rules concerning coordination and agreements between the department and a utility related to the relocation of a utility facility.

WELFARE AND GOVERNMENTAL ASSISTANCE**ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS*****Legislative Study of Workforce and Social Services***

ACT 145 (SB50) requires the Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee of the Legislative Council to study issues related to the reform of the state's workforce and social services and to consider related legislation that may be necessary to remedy any issues identified during the course of the study. The act provides for the expiration of the study on December 31, 2026.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - Waiver to Exclude Candy and Soft Drinks

ACT 969 (SB217) requires the Secretary of the Department of Human Services to request a waiver from the United States Department of Agriculture to exclude candy and soft drinks from eligible foods under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - Work Requirement Volunteer

ACT 631 (HB1543) requires a state-funded entity to accept and accommodate recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits as work requirement volunteers. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program - Job Search Activities

ACT 640 (HB1751) requires an applicant for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program benefits to engage in job search activities while his or her application for benefits is being processed.

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT***Foster Home Training Requirements***

ACT 824 (HB1921) prohibits the Division of Children and Family Services from requiring a foster home to obtain more than fifteen (15) hours of initial training to become an approved foster home or six (6) hours of annual training to maintain the foster home's status as an approved foster home. The act also prohibits the division from requiring a provisional foster home to undergo the same amount of hourly training as a nonprovisional foster home.

Residency Requirement for Adoption

ACT 139 (HB1292) prohibits a decree of adoption of a child from being issued for a child that is not in the custody of the Department of Human Services until the child has lived in the home for at least six (6) months. The act provides an exception for a child who is the stepchild of the petitioner or who is fewer than six (6) months of age at the time the petition is filed.

MEDICAID***Administrative Fee for Respiratory Syncytial Virus Disease***

ACT 634 (HB1619) sets the administrative fee under the Arkansas Medicaid Program for immunizations and monoclonal antibodies for respiratory syncytial virus disease and provides civil immunity for the administration of immunizations and monoclonal antibodies for respiratory syncytial virus disease.

WELFARE AND GOVERNMENTAL ASSISTANCE**MEDICAID*****Adverse Decisions - Corrective Action Plans and Administrative Reconsideration***

ACT 635 (HB1622) modifies the definition of "adverse decision" under the Medicaid Fairness Act to include the imposition of corrective action plans and to provide for administrative reconsideration.

Annual Cap for Diagnostic Laboratory Services

ACT 567 (SB348) amends the annual cap for diagnostic laboratory services within the Arkansas Medicaid Program. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after July 1, 2025.

Arkansas Health and Opportunity for Me Program Changes

ACT 774 (SB527) requires the Department of Human Services to establish and maintain a process to track pharmacy rebates obtained by participating health plans and ensure that an amount equal to the pharmacy rebates is remitted to the state on a quarterly basis. The act also requires an eligible individual enrolled in the Arkansas Health and Opportunity for Me Program to comply with federal and state work requirements subject to certain exemptions, increases the medical-loss ratio of an individual qualified health insurance plan in the program, and extends the sunset or expiration of the program.

Autism Spectrum Disorder Waiver - Qualified Professionals

ACT 386 (HB1586) amends the Medicaid waiver for autism spectrum disorder to clarify the number and type of qualified professionals required to diagnose autism spectrum disorder.

Certain Dental Service Reimbursement Rates Increased

ACT 1025 (SB347) requires the Arkansas Medicaid Program to increase reimbursement rates beginning September 1, 2025, for oral and maxillofacial surgeon's dental services, pediatric dental services, and dental services for adults with special needs. The act also requires the Arkansas Medicaid Program to increase the annual reimbursement cap for dental services for adults with special needs.

Continuous Glucose Monitors - Durable Medical Equipment

ACT 857 (HB1255) clarifies that a continuous glucose monitor covered under the Arkansas Medicaid Program may be obtained through a written order from an ordering practitioner for durable medical equipment provided by a durable medical equipment provider.

Continuous Glucose Monitors - Medicare Policy

ACT 623 (SB576) specifies that a person eligible for coverage of a continuous glucose monitor within the Arkansas Medicaid Program may have the presence of Type 1 diabetes or any other type of diabetes with the use of insulin in accordance with Medicare policy.

High-Complexity Oral Care Reimbursement

ACT 568 (HB1241) requires the Arkansas Medicaid Program to reimburse dental schools that are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and academic medical centers for dental and anesthesia costs up to a certain amount for certain individuals with high-complexity oral health care.

Inpatient Treatment Services for Substance Use Disorder

ACT 632 (HB1559) requires the Department of Human Services to develop and submit an application for a demonstrative waiver to allow coverage for inpatient treatment of substance use disorder in facilities that qualify as institutions for mental diseases. The act also requires the department to report annually to the General Assembly on the status of the waiver application, the implementation progress, and the outcomes of the expanded coverage.

WELFARE AND GOVERNMENTAL ASSISTANCE**MEDICAID*****Maternal Health***

ACT 124 (HB1427) requires the Arkansas Medicaid Program to reimburse for prenatal, delivery, and postpartum services separately in lieu of a global payment, make presumptive eligibility determinations for pregnant women, provide coverage and reimbursement for self-measurement blood pressure monitoring services for pregnant and postpartum women, reimburse for medically necessary remote ultrasound procedures, and reimburse doulas and community health workers for home visitation related to prenatal care and postpartum care. The act also amends the statute of limitations for medical malpractice to state that if an alleged medical injury occurred during childbirth, the minor or his or her representative has until the minor's fifth birthday to commence a medical malpractice action. The act is identical to Act 140 of 2025.

ACT 140 (SB213) requires the Arkansas Medicaid Program to reimburse for prenatal, delivery, and postpartum services separately in lieu of a global payment, make presumptive eligibility determinations for pregnant women, provide coverage and reimbursement for self-measurement blood pressure monitoring services for pregnant and postpartum women, reimburse for medically necessary remote ultrasound procedures, and reimburse doulas and community health workers for home visitation related to prenatal care and postpartum care. The act also amends the statute of limitations for medical malpractice to state that if an alleged medical injury occurred during childbirth, the minor or his or her representative has until the minor's fifth birthday to commence a medical malpractice action. The act is identical to Act 124 of 2025.

Notices and Extended Appeals Period

ACT 515 (SB257) extends the appeal period for providers in the Arkansas Medicaid Program, requires comprehensive information in notices for adverse decisions, requires that third-party vendors and similar entities contracted to administer any part of the Medicaid appeals process comply with the requirements of the Medicaid Fairness Act, and mandates publication of all policies, procedures, or requirements.

Pain Relief Parity

ACT 960 (HB1186) requires the Department of Human Services to ensure that a non-opioid drug approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration with no therapeutic equivalent for the treatment or management of pain is not disadvantaged or discouraged with respect to coverage relative to any opioid or narcotic drug for the treatment or management of pain on the formulary and preferred drug list of the Arkansas Medicaid Program.

Physical Therapy in a Clinic-Based Setting

ACT 103 (SB77) requires the Arkansas Medicaid Program to reimburse for physical therapy provided in a clinic-based setting.

Physician Assistant as Primary Care Provider

ACT 482 (SB100) authorizes the Arkansas Medicaid Program to recognize a physician assistant as a primary care provider if authorized by the physician assistant's supervising physician. The act also requires certain reimbursement rates for physician assistants in the Arkansas Medicaid Program.

Provider-Led Organized Care - Abbreviated Independent Assessments

ACT 625 (HB1171) authorizes an abbreviated independent assessment for beneficiaries who have been previously approved for services through an independent assessment.

WELFARE AND GOVERNMENTAL ASSISTANCE

MEDICAID

Provider-Led Organized Care - Provider Communications

ACT 301 (SB222) clarifies that the Department of Human Services or a risk-based provider organization shall not require a direct service provider to separate communications about its network status from communications about open enrollment if certain criteria are met and shall not restrict direct service providers from responding to an individual's questions about open enrollment or network status if certain criteria are met. The act declares an emergency and is effective on and after March 18, 2025.

Provider-Led Organized Care - Quality Rating System and Provider Network Directories

ACT 962 (HB1943) requires a basic quality rating system for each risk-based provider organization that is accessible online, requires a risk-based provider organization to provide access to provider network directories for its enrollees, and requires the Department of Human Services to have a dedicated beneficiary support system related to risk-based provider organizations. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.

Provider-Led Organized Care - Rates for Home- and Community-Based Services

ACT 1023 (HB1942) requires certain reimbursement rates for home- and community-based services provided through a risk-based provider organization based on a rate study.

Provider-Led Organized Care - Sedation Dentistry

ACT 967 (HB1840) includes sedation dentistry in the services that are covered by a risk-based provider organization.

WILLS, ESTATES, AND FIDUCIARY RELATIONSHIPS

GUARDIANS AND GUARDIANSHIP

Permissible Investments

ACT 315 (HB1527) allows a guardian of the estate to invest in an Arkansas Brighter Future Fund Plan on behalf of his or her ward.

Proceedings - Evidence - Notice

ACT 713 (HB1838) requires a minor who is twelve (12) years of age or older to provide his or her consent to his or her adoption at the adoption hearing and allows the court to waive this requirement if the court finds it to be in the minor's best interest. The act requires that a probate case style and case number be generated when a guardianship is granted in a juvenile case and requires clear and convincing evidence that a parent is unfit to care for a child before a guardianship that is not an emergency or temporary guardianship is granted for a minor child that would remove custody from a parent. The act also requires a proposed adult ward to be notified of his or her due process rights and the hearing on the petition for guardianship and requires a child's living legal parent to be given first consideration when a deceased parent of a minor has nominated a person to be the minor's guardian upon that parent's death.

PROBATE

Declaration of Legal Death

ACT 692 (HB1839) allows any interested person to open a case in probate court to seek a legal declaration that a person who is believed to be deceased is legally deceased and outlines the procedures to obtain a declaration that the person is deceased.

WILLS, ESTATES, AND FIDUCIARY RELATIONSHIPS

TRUSTS

Compensation for Content Creation by Minor

ACT 982 (HB1975) allows a minor who is thirteen (13) years of age or older to produce, create, and publish his or her own content and entitles a minor to all compensation for his or her own content creation. The act requires a content creator whose content features a minor engaged in the work of content creation to maintain records that document certain data of the minor and his or her content creation until the minor reaches twenty-one (21) years of age. The act requires a content creator to set aside the gross earnings of a minor lawfully engaged in content creation in a trust account and to preserve the trust account for the benefit of the minor until he or she reaches eighteen (18) years of age. The act is effective on and after July 1, 2026.

Special Needs Trust - Payment by the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System

ACT 363 (HB1347) allows the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System to pay an annuity or benefit owed to a person to a special needs trust that is established for the benefit of the person. The act is effective on and after July 1, 2026.

Uniform Trust Decanting Act

ACT 680 (HB1749) adopts the Uniform Trust Decanting Act concerning the power of an authorized fiduciary to distribute property of a first trust to one (1) or more second trusts or to modify the terms of the first trust. The act is effective on and after January 1, 2026.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

HJR 1018 - A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO BE KNOWN AS "THE CITIZENS ONLY VOTING AMENDMENT" AND PROVIDING THAT ONLY A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES MEETING THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELECTOR UNDER THE ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION MAY VOTE IN AN ELECTION IN THIS STATE.

If approved by voters at the 2026 general election, the amendment would provide that only a citizen of the United States meeting the qualifications of an elector may vote in an election in Arkansas and a person who does not meet the qualifications of an elector shall not be permitted to vote in any state or local election held in Arkansas.

SJR 11 - A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE 2, § 5, TO PROTECT THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS.

If approved by voters at the 2026 general election, the amendment would provide that the citizens of Arkansas shall have the right to keep and bear arms for their common defense, lawful hunting and recreational use, and any other lawful purpose. The right to keep and bear arms includes without limitation the possession and use of ammunition, firearm accessories, and firearm components. The right to keep and bear arms would be a natural, fundamental, and individual right that shall not be infringed.

SJR 15 - A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT CONCERNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; AND AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS WITHIN CITIES, COUNTIES, OR COOPERATIVE AREAS TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT.

If approved by voters at the 2026 general election, the amendment would provide that the General Assembly may provide for the creation of programs and the making of loans and grants of public money for the public purposes of development and diversification of the economy of the State of Arkansas, the elimination and prevention of unemployment or underemployment in the state, the development or expansion of transportation or commerce in the state, or the development or improvement of real estate in the state that contributes to economic development within the state. The authority under the amendment includes without limitation providing for the creation of economic development districts.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF ACTS

Acts that do not contain an emergency clause or a specified effective date become effective on the ninety-first day following the date that the General Assembly adjourns sine die. According to the method of calculation stated in Ark. Atty. Gen. Op. 2025-032, the effective date for acts of the 95th General Assembly that do not contain an emergency clause or a specified effective date is August 5, 2025.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING DATES
AND EFFECTIVE DATES SINCE 1969

General Assembly	Year	Dates in Session	Effective date without emergency clause/AG Opin. No.
67 th	1969	January 13 – May 8	8/7/69 *
67 th – FES	1970	March 2 – March 7	6/6/70 *
68 th	1971	January 11 – April 19	7/19/71 *
68 th – FES	1972	February 7 – February 16	5/17/72 *
69 th	1973	January 8 – January 14, 1974	7/24/73: #73-120
69 th – FES	1974	June 24 – August 1	10/31/74 *
70 th	1975	January 13 – April 9	7/9/75 **
70 th – Exten	1976	January 12 – January 28	4/28/76: #76-50
70 th – FES	1976	September 8 – September 10	NA
71 st	1977	January 10 – August 14	7/6/77: #77-57
71 st – FES	1977	August 2 – August 5	11/4/77 **
72 nd	1979	January 8 – April 20	7/20/79: #79-88
72 nd – EXT.	1980	January 7 – January 17	(No legislation passed)
72 nd – FES	1980	January 17 – January 24	4/24/80: #80-42
72 nd – SES	1980	April 15 – April 18	NA
73 rd	1981	January 12 – March 18	6/17/81: #81-76
73 rd – FES	1981	November 16 – November 25	2/24/82 **
74 th	1983	January 10 – April 4	7/4/83: #83-74
74 th – FES	1983	October 4 – November 10	2/9/84: #83-228
75 th	1985	January 14 – March 29	6/28/85: #85-108
75 th – FES	1985	June 17 – June 21	9/20/85 **
75 th – SES	1986	April 28 – May 1	7/31/86: #86-337
76 th	1987	January 12 – April 20	7/20/87: #87-156
76 th – FES	1987	June 2 – June 5	9/4/87 **
76 th – SES	1987	October 6 – October 9	1/8/88 **
76 th – TES	1988	January 26 – February 5	5/6/88 **
76 th – 4 th ES	1988	July 11 – July 14	10/13/88 **
77 th	1989	January 9 – April 3	7/3/89: #89-078
77 th – FES	1989	June 20 – June 23	9/22/89 **
77 th – SES	1989	July 25 – July 27	10/26/89 **
77 th – TES	1989	October 23 – November 3	2/2/90 **
78 th	1991	January 14 – April 15	7/15/91: #91-119

General Assembly	Year	Dates in Session	Effective date without emergency clause/AG Opin. No.
78 th – FES	1992	February 24 – March 4	6/3/92: #92-114A & #93-025A
78 th – SES	1992	December 14 – December 18	3/19/93: #93-025A
79 th	1993	January 11 – May 14	8/13/93: #93-149A
79 th – FES	1994	February 28 – March 2	6/1/94: #94-076
79 th – SES	1994	August 15 – August 24	11/23/94: #94-273
80 th	1995	January 9 – April 28	7/28/95: #95-119
80 th – FES	1995	October 17 – October 20	1/19/96 *
81 st	1997	January 13 – May 2	8/1/97: #97-144
82 nd	1999	January 11 – April 30	7/30/99: #99-120
82 nd – FES	2000	April 3 – April 7	NA
82 nd – SES	2000	December 13 – 15	NA
83 rd	2001	January 8 – May 14	8/13/01: #2001-138
83 rd – FES	2002	June 10 – June 12	NA
84 th	2003	January 13 – April 16	7/16/03: #2003-119
84 th – FES	2003	May 5 – May 9	NA
84 th – SES	2003	Dec. 8, 2003 – June 9, 2004	6/3/04: #2004-186
85 th	2005	January 10 – May 13	8/12/05: #2005-110
85 th – FES	2006	April 3 – April 21	7/21/06: #2006-080
86 th	2007	January 8 – May 1	7/31/07: #2007-164
86 th – FES	2008	March 31 – April 2	NA
87 th	2009	January 12 – May 1	7/31/09: #2009-090
87 th – Fiscal	2010	February 8 – March 4	6/3/10: #2010-031
88 th	2011	January 10 – April 27	7/27/11: #2011-056
88 th – Fiscal	2012	February 13 – March 9	6/8/12 *
89 th	2013	January 14 – May 17	8/16/13: #2013-049
89 th – FES	2013	October 17 – October 19	1/18/14 *
89 th – Fiscal	2014	February 10 – March 19	6/18/14 *
89 th – SES	2014	June 30 – July 2	10/1/14: #2014-078
90 th	2015	January 12 – April 22	7/22/15: #2015-044
90 th – FES	2015	May 26 – May 28	8/27/15: #2015-094
90 th – SES	2016	April 6 – April 8	7/8/16 *
90 th – Fiscal	2016	April 13 – May 9	8/8/16 *
90 th – TES	2016	May 19 – May 23	8/22/16 *

General Assembly	Year	Dates in Session	Effective date without emergency clause/AG Opin. No.
91 st	2017	January 9 – May 1	8/1/17: #2017-052
91 st – FES	2017	May 1 – May 3	8/2/17: #2017-061
91 st – Fiscal	2018	February 12 – March 12	6/12/18: #2018-073
91 st – SES	2018	March 13 – March 15	6/14/18: #2018-074
92 nd	2019	January 14 – April 24	7/24/19: #2019-034 7/30/19 (Act 1092)
92 nd – FES	2020	March 26 – March 28	6/29/20 *
92 nd – Fiscal	2020	April 8 – April 24	7/27/20 *
93 rd	2021	January 11 – April 28 [†]	7/28/21: #2021-029
	2021	September 29 – October 15	1/14/22: #2021-092
93 rd – FES	2021	August 4 – August 6	NA
93 rd – SES	2021	December 7 – December 9	3/10/22: #2021-099
93 rd – Fiscal	2022	February 14 – March 15	NA
94 th	2023	January 9 – May 1	8/1/23: #2023-031
94 th – FES	2023	September 11 – September 14	12/14/23: #2023-089
94 th – Fiscal	2024	April 10 – May 9	NA
94 th – SES	2024	June 17 – 19	NA
95 th	2025	January 13 – May 5	8/5/25: #2025-032

* Bureau Calculation

** Bureau Calculation, confirmed by Secretary of State

† Under HCR1015 of 2021, the regular session went into an extended recess on April 28, 2021, and was extended until the Ninety-Third General Assembly was able to complete its work on congressional redistricting. The General Assembly reconvened on September 29, 2021, to complete the work of the regular session.

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