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SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS
SENATE CHAMBER
NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION

Little Rock, Arkansas
January 13, 2015

The Senate was called to order at 10:00 o'clock a.m. by the President.

The Secretary called the roll, and the following members answered to roll call:

BLEDSOE, BURNETT, CALDWELL, CHEATHAM,
CHESTERFIELD, CLARK, COLLINS-SMITH, COOPER,
DISMANG, ELLIOTT, ENGLISH, FILES, FLIPPO,
FLOWERS, HENDREN, HESTER, HICKEY,
HUTCHINSON, INGRAM, IRVIN, B. JOHNSON,
D. JOHNSON, KING, LINDSEY, MALOCH, PIERCE,
RAPERT, RICE, SAMPLE, SANDERS, STUBBLEFIELD,
TEAGUE, WILLIAMS, WOODS.

The Senate was led in prayer by Senator Sample.

The Senate was led in the Pledge of Allegiance by the President.

On motion of Senator Dismang, the reading of the Journal was dispensed with.

The President declared the morning hour to have expired.

On motion of Senator Chesterfield, **Senate Bill No. 1** was called up for third reading and final disposition.

**SENATE BILL NO. 1
NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
BY: SENATE EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE**

A Bill for an Act to be Entitled: AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR EXPENSES FOR THE ARKANSAS SENATE OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2015; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Senate Bill No. 1 was placed on third reading and final disposition, the question being: Shall the Bill pass?

The Secretary called the roll, and the following members voted:

AFFIRMATIVE: Bledsoe, Burnett, Caldwell, E. Cheatham, L. Chesterfield, A. Clark, Collins-Smith, J. Cooper, J. Dismang, Elliott, J. English, Files, Flippo, S. Flowers, J. Hendren, Hester, Hickey, J. Hutchinson, K. Ingram, Irvin, B. Johnson, D. Johnson, B. King, U. Lindsey, Maloch, B. Pierce, Rapert, Rice, B. Sample, D. Sanders, G. Stubblefield, Teague, E. Williams, J. Woods.

Total34

NEGATIVE:

Total0

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING:

Total0

VOTING PRESENT:

Total0

Total number of votes cast.....34

Necessary to the passage of the bill27

So the bill passed and the title as read was agreed to.

(SIGNED) ANN CORNWELL, SECRETARY

There being an emergency clause attached to **Senate Bill No. 1**, the President ordered the Secretary to call the roll upon the adoption of the emergency clause.

The Secretary called the roll, and the following members voted:

AFFIRMATIVE: Bledsoe, Burnett, Caldwell, E. Cheatham, L. Chesterfield, A. Clark, Collins-Smith, J. Cooper, J. Dismang, Elliott, J. English, Files, Flippo, S. Flowers, J. Hendren, Hester, Hickey, J. Hutchinson, K. Ingram, Irvin, B. Johnson, D. Johnson, B. King, U. Lindsey, Maloch, B. Pierce, Rapert, Rice, B. Sample, D. Sanders, G. Stubblefield, Teague, E. Williams, J. Woods..

Total34

NEGATIVE:

Total0

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING:

Total0

VOTING PRESENT:

Total0

Total number of votes cast.....34

Necessary to the adoption of the emergency clause.....24

So the emergency clause was adopted.

(SIGNED) ANN CORNWELL, SECRETARY

Senate Bill No. 1 was ordered immediately transmitted to the House.

SENATE BILL NO. 38
NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
BY: SENATOR B. JOHNSON

A Bill for an Act to be Entitled: AN ACT TO MAINTAIN COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW BY ALLOWING A DIRECT ROLLOVER OF A PORTION OF AN ELIGIBLE ROLLOVER DISTRIBUTION TO AN ELIGIBLE RETIREMENT PLAN OR DESIGNATED BENEFICIARY; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Senate Bill No. 38 was read the first time, rules suspended, read the second time and referred to the Committee on JOINT RETIREMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY.

SENATE BILL NO. 39
NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
BY: JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE

A Bill for an Act to be Entitled: AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES, OPERATING EXPENSES AND GRANTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF MONITORING AND EVALUATING PROGRAM EXPENDITURES FROM THE PROGRAM ACCOUNTS OF THE TOBACCO SETTLEMENT PROGRAM FUND FOR THE ARKANSAS TOBACCO SETTLEMENT COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2016; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Senate Bill No. 39 was read the first time, rules suspended, read the second time and referred to the Committee on JOINT BUDGET.

SENATE BILL NO. 40
NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
BY: JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE

A Bill for an Act to be Entitled: AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE BUREAU OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH, AND THE INTERIM COMMITTEES OF THE ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2016; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Senate Bill No. 40 was read the first time, rules suspended, read the second time and referred to the Committee on JOINT BUDGET.

SENATE BILL NO. 41
NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
BY: JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE

A Bill for an Act to be Entitled: AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE ARKANSAS SENTENCING COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2016; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Senate Bill No. 41 was read the first time, rules suspended, read the second time and referred to the Committee on JOINT BUDGET.

SENATE BILL NO. 42
NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
BY: JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE

A Bill for an Act to be Entitled: AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF NURSING FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2016; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Senate Bill No. 42 was read the first time, rules suspended, read the second time and referred to the Committee on JOINT BUDGET.

SENATE BILL NO. 43
NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
BY: JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE

A Bill for an Act to be Entitled AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL SERVICES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2016; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Senate Bill No. 43 was read the first time, rules suspended, read the second time and referred to the Committee on JOINT BUDGET.

SENATE BILL NO. 44
NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
BY: JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE

A Bill for an Act to be Entitled: AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2016; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Senate Bill No. 44 was read the first time, rules suspended, read the second time and referred to the Committee on JOINT BUDGET.

SENATE BILL NO. 45
NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
BY: JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE

A Bill for an Act to be Entitled: AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE ARKANSAS FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2016; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Senate Bill No. 45 was read the first time, rules suspended, read the second time and referred to the Committee on JOINT BUDGET.

SENATE BILL NO. 46
NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
BY: SENATOR J. HUTCHINSON

A Bill for an Act to be Entitled: AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE LIFETIME SUPERVISION FOR CERTAIN PERSONS CONVICTED OF A SEX OFFENSE AFTER A FINDING BY THE SENTENCING COURT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Senate Bill No. 46 was read the first time, rules suspended, read the second time and referred to the Committee on JUDICIARY.

SENATE BILL NO. 47
NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
BY: SENATOR B. PIERCE
BY: REPRESENTATIVES SHEPHERD, BAINE

A Bill for an Act to be Entitled: AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW REGARDING BRINE PRODUCTION; TO AUTHORIZE THE ARKANSAS OIL AND GAS COMMISSION TO FORM BRINE EXPANSION UNITS CONTAINING ONE (1) OR MORE PRODUCTION WELLS OR BRINE INJECTION WELLS; TO PROTECT THE CORRELATIVE RIGHTS OF BRINE PRODUCTION OWNERS IN BRINE EXPANSION UNITS; TO CLARIFY THAT THE FORMULA TO MAKE THE ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT TO THE IN-LIEU ROYALTY PAYMENT FOR THE PRODUCTION OF BRINE SHALL BE BASED ON THE PRODUCER PRICE INDEX FOR PROCESSED GOODS FOR INTERMEDIATE DEMAND AS PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Senate Bill No. 47 was read the first time, rules suspended, read the second time and referred to the Committee on AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

**SENATE BILL NO. 48
NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
BY: SENATOR B. SAMPLE**

A Bill for an Act to be Entitled: AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARKANSAS TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM DISABILITY RETIREMENT BENEFIT TO REQUIRE PROOF OF SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY WITHIN THREE YEARS; TO MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF THE SYSTEM; TO ENSURE THE FAIRNESS OF THE DISABILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Senate Bill No. 48 was read the first time, rules suspended, read the second time and referred to the Committee on JOINT RETIREMENT & SOCIAL SECURITY.

SENATE BILL NO. 49
NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
BY: SENATOR IRVIN

A Bill for an Act to be Entitled: AN ACT TO REGULATE DRIVER LICENSING; TO IMPROVE DRIVER'S LICENSING PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Senate Bill No. 49 was read the first time, rules suspended, read the second time and referred to the Committee on TRANSPORTATION, TECHNOLOGY & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS.

SENATE BILL NO. 50
NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
BY: SENATOR E. CHEATHAM

A Bill for an Act to be Entitled: AN ACT TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE ARKANSAS TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM ACT; TO ALLOW FOR A DE MINIMIS AMOUNT OF MONEY TO BE SET CONCERNING THE SYSTEM'S OBLIGATIONS; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE DEADLINE FOR THE SYSTEM TO PROVIDE EMPLOYERS WITH FINANCIAL REPORTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Senate Bill No. 50 was read the first time, rules suspended, read the second time and referred to the Committee on JOINT RETIREMENT & SOCIAL SECURITY.

On motion of Senator Dismang the Senate recessed until 10 minutes after the conclusion of Joint Session.

The Senate reconvened after recess. The Secretary called the roll, and a quorum was present.

Received from the House

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1002
NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
BY: REPRESENTATIVE GILLAM

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY RECESS ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2015, AND RECONVENE ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2015.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 1002 was read the first time, rules suspended, read the second time and placed on the Calendar.

Received from the House

HOUSE BILL NO. 1001
NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
BY: REPRESENTATIVE GILLAM

A Bill for an Act to be Entitled: AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR NECESSARY EXPENSES, PAY EXPENSES OF MEMBERS, PAY SALARIES OF EMPLOYEES, PAY FOR SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE ARKANSAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2015; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

House Bill No. 1001 was read the first time, rules suspended, read the second time and placed on the Calendar.

JOINT SESSION**10:30 a .m.**

1. Call to order by the Speaker of the House, The Honorable Jeremy Gillam.
2. Roll Call of the Senate by the Secretary of the Senate.

BLEDSON, BURNETT, CALDWELL, CHEATHAM,
 CHESTERFIELD, CLARK, COLLINS-SMITH, COOPER,
 DISMANG, ELLIOTT, ENGLISH, FILES, FLIPPO, FLOWERS,
 HENDREN, HESTER, HICKEY, HUTCHINSON, INGRAM,
 IRVIN, B. JOHNSON, D. JOHNSON, KING, LINDSEY,
 MALOCH, PIERCE, RAPERT, RICE, SAMPLE, SANDERS,
 STUBBLEFIELD, TEAGUE, WILLIAMS, WOODS.

3. Electronic Roll Call of the House by the Chief Clerk.

C. ARMSTRONG, E. ARMSTRONG, BAINE, BALLINGER,
 BALTZ, BECK, BELL, BENNETT, BENTLEY, BLAKE, BOYD,
 BRAGG, BRANSCUM, BROADAWAY, BROWN, COLLINS,
 COPELAND, COZART, DAVIS, DEFFENBAUGH, DELLA
 ROSA, DOTSON, C. DOUGLAS, D. DOUGLAS, DROWN,
 EADS, EAVES, EUBANKS, FARRER, D. FERGUSON, K.
 FERGUSON, FIELDING, C. FITE, L. FITE, FLOWERS, GATES,
 GILLAM, GONZALES, GOSSAGE, MICHAEL GRAY,
 MICHELLE GRAY, HAMMER, HARRIS, HENDERSON,
 HENDREN, HICKERSON, HILLMAN, G. HODGES, M
 .HODGES, HOLCOMB, HOUSE, JEAN, JETT, JOHNSON,
 LADYMAN, LAMPKIN, LEDING, LEMONS, LINCK, LOVE,
 LOWERY, LUNDSTRUM, MAGIE, MAYBERRY, MCELROY,
 MCGILL, MCNAIR, D. MEEKS, S. MEEKS, MILLER,
 MURDOCK, NEAL, NICKS, OVERBEY, PAYTON, PERRY,
 PETTY, PITSCH, RATLIFF, RICHEY, RICHMOND, RUSHING,
 SABIN, SCOTT, SHEPHERD, SMITH, SORVILLO, SPEAKS,
 STURCH, SULLIVAN, TALLEY, TOSH, TUCKER, VAUGHT,
 VINES, WALKER, WALLACE, WARDLAW, WHITAKER,
 WOMACK, WRIGHT.

4. Invocation by the House Chaplain, Reverend Tim Noel, Pastor, Trinity Baptist Church, Searcy, Arkansas
5. House led in Pledge of Allegiance by Representative Marshall Wright.
6. Speaker of the House, The Honorable Jeremy Gillam, recognizes visiting dignitaries.
7. Speaker Gillam recognizes House Parliamentarian Finos " Buddy" Johnson to announce the results of the General Election vote for the United State Senate, the United States Congress, Proposed Constitutional Amendments, and Ballot Issues.
8. Speaker Gillam recognizes House Parliamentarian Finos "Buddy" Johnson for the Declaration of the results of the General Election vote for the Arkansas State

Constitutional Officers. (Each Officer goes to the Podium of the Chamber to take the Oath of Office after the Speaker announces the results of the election.)

9. Oath of Office administered to Constitutional Officers by The Honorable Jim Hannah, Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court.

First -- Lieutenant Governor	Tim Griffin
Second -- Secretary of State	Mark Martin
Third -- Treasurer of State	Dennis Milligan
Fourth -- Auditor of State	Andrea Lea
Fifth -- Attorney General	Leslie Rutledge
Sixth -- Commissioner of State Lands	John Thurston

10. Senate President Pro Tempore, The Honorable Jonathan Dismang, appoints the following named Senate Committee:

Senator Jim Hendren, Chairperson	
Senator Cecile Bledsoe	Senator Eddie Joe Williams
Senator Joyce Elliott	Senator Jane English
Senator Jason Rapert	Senator Keith M. Ingram
Senator Jake Files	Senator Bobby J. Pierce
Senator Jeremy Hutchinson	Senator Jimmy Hickey, Jr.

and, Speaker Gillam appoints the following named House Committee:

Representative Kim Hendren, Chairperson	
Representative Ken Bragg	Representative James Sturch
Representative Eddie L. Armstrong	Representative Charles Blake
Representative Jon S. Eubanks	Representative Joe Jett
Representative Bill Gossage	Representative Mark D. McElroy
Representative Kelley Linck	Representative Justin Gonzales
Representative Warwick Sabin	Representative Lane Jean
Representative Monte Hodges	Representative Dave Wallace
Representative Charlotte Vining Douglas	
Representative Marcus E. Richmond	

as the Committee to notify Governor Asa Hutchinson that the Joint Session is ready to receive him and to escort the Governor to the Speaker's Rostrum.

11. Speaker Gillam recognizes Sergeant at Arms.
12. Speaker Gillam recognizes House Parliamentarian Finos "Buddy" Johnson for the Declaration of the results of the General Election vote for the Office of Governor.
13. Oath of Office administered to Governor Asa Hutchinson by The Honorable Jim Hannah, Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court.
14. President of the Senate, The Honorable Tim Griffin presents The Honorable Asa Hutchinson, Governor of the State of Arkansas, for remarks.

15. Remarks by The Honorable Asa Hutchinson, Governor of the State of Arkansas.

Speech to the Arkansas General Assembly, Jan. 13, 2015

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Distinguished Members of the House and the Senate, our constitutional officers, members of the court, and fellow Arkansans:

Thank you.

I am glad they didn't recount those votes.

It is an honor to stand before you today as the 46th elected governor of Arkansas. I want to acknowledge my wife Susan, who has stood with me every step of the way. I want to acknowledge my family: my children, Asa, John, Sarah; Seth is not here with me. Dave, thank you for all your leadership. Holly, thank you. My grandsons and my granddaughters, thank you all for being here and being a part of this victory.

And I wanted to acknowledge also my Aunt Norma, who is watching this by videotape in the Governor's Conference Room. Aunt Norma is the representative of my mom and dad's generation. My mom and dad are not here. Aunt Norma is the oldest member of that generation, and she's here today to enjoy this moment for herself, for her family and for my mom and dad.

I want to recognize what I call the "White County boys" — Senator Dismang and Speaker Gillam. I appreciate your leadership and your partnership. And chief justice, I know that you hail from White County as well, but I don't dare call the chief justice a boy.

This is exciting for me. This is a new chapter in my life. I've been blessed in my life. But this is a new and exciting chapter that I've never been able to experience before — the legislative session, working with you and being governor of this great state.

It's a new day for the state of Arkansas. And guess what? A new day leads to change and sometimes the unexpected in life. And it's natural because we live in a time of consistent change — the one thing that you can count on.

Political change. Demographic change. New technologies that we experience every day. And change, we know, is often resisted because we are uncertain as to whether the change has taken us in the right direction. That's when we wrestle with convictions in our heart and with what is right. And that is understandable.

But sometimes change is resisted because we are content, comfortable in the status quo. And let me tell you, friends and colleagues, that the status quo for Arkansas is not acceptable. Because we know that if we do not adapt to new technologies, to the

global marketplace, to the new issues of security that our world faces, and to the spirit of competition and the creation of jobs, then the next generation of Arkansans will be calling places like Austin and Charlotte and Dallas and New York home. That is unacceptable.

I challenge myself, the citizens of this state, and my colleagues in this room to embrace the energy of change and growth.

I was in south Arkansas recently, after the election, and a friend came up to me and said, 'You've had a great victory. You had a margin that you might not have expected. Be bold in your leadership.' It was a great admonition for this time. It is a new day in Arkansas, and many of my newly elected fellow Republicans are reflections of that new day. Well, let me assure you, every one in this room reflects that new day in Arkansas and is a part of our leadership team.

And while much is changing, what has not changed is why we are all here. We are here because of the people of Arkansas. We are here for the people of Arkansas. On that, I know we agree. And it binds us together.

Governing is not about which political party is in the majority. Governing is about setting aside differences and searching for common ground. And as we search for the common ground, we realize quickly that our differences are smaller than we thought and our hearts are larger than we imagined.

We realize that we all care about the state we love, and that we can work together to accomplish even more to enhance freedom and the spirit that is uniquely American and, yes, uniquely Arkansas.

As you know, I've had five barbecues in the last week. I will not be having barbecue tonight. Why did we bring our inauguration festivals to Rogers and Fort Smith and Jonesboro and El Dorado? It is because this new day of opportunity in Arkansas is for everyone.

We won't allow anyone to be left on the side of the road. Opportunity is for all. We are unified, searching for new opportunities, excited about the future.

I want to address very briefly today the upcoming legislative session, and I want to talk about a number of things that are important to me, that I know will be important to you, and that we will be working on together.

In my judgment, the first order of business for the state of Arkansas is economic growth and job creation. We all have different priorities. We all want to improve education. We all want to build more highways. We all want to improve our criminal justice system. We all want to increase pre-K opportunities. But to do all that we need to do in this state, we have to grow our economy. And as we grow our economy, we will be able to do more in every category. That is our top priority.

The first order of business is the tax cut that will allow our state to be more competitive, that will make our income tax rate more competitive, and the first priority of that income-tax reduction is the middle class.

My plan that will be presented later this week will provide a tax benefit for half-a-million Arkansans. It will allow us to be more competitive. Arkansas has the highest income-tax rate in our region. We need to reduce it. We need to flatten it. We need to be competitive. And that is the starting point.

Now, some will say you have too high of an income-tax reduction; we can't afford that. Others will say your income-tax reduction is too modest; we should do more. I think what I will be proposing is about right for Arkansas and where we are today. I welcome the debate and the discussion. It is my top priority. We'll be working with you to accomplish that.

It is also important that I present, along with the proposed income-tax reduction, a balanced budget. And we will present our balanced budget by the end of the month. As good, conservative legislators, you want to see the whole picture. And we will present that whole picture with a balanced budget to include areas of savings and efficiencies in the budget. It will fully fund education, as is required, and it will reflect the priorities that I hope you will concur with.

It is important that we look at education. One of the top proposals that I will present is an initiative to have computer science offered in every high school in Arkansas. I ask for your help, your assistance, and your enthusiasm in accomplishing this goal, which will allow every small high school, every large high school, every rural high school, every urban high school, to provide the young people with the same technology education as anywhere in the state. It will give us the opportunity not to lag behind the nation but to lead the nation.

If you can envision just 20 percent of our high school students taking computer coding, we will send 6,000 graduates into our economy each year with the ability to carry on a career in computer science. This drives our economy. It lays the foundation. I'm enthusiastic about it, and I hope you share that.

We also need to make sure we do all we can through our Arkansas Economic Development Commission to provide the leadership to compete with our surrounding states. There will be legislation that will allow private sector dollars to help us attract the best in economic development for the state of Arkansas. I ask for your assistance with that. Another issue that we will be addressing is health-care reform, and this is something that we are passionate about. It's something that we must address. It's something that has not always been met with the greatest unity in this body. And I hope, and I ask, for your patience, as I make my health-care reform address on January 22nd. It's a short amount of time. Please be patient and await action until I have the opportunity to lay out my ideas and what I hope that you will consider in terms of health-care reform for the state of Arkansas.

There is much to be done. Another area that is sometimes neglected and sometimes avoided is criminal-justice reform. We have talked about new prison space. We have talked about the need for new parole officers. In fact, those are combined. When you look at the fact that we have more than 3,500 prisoners over-capacity in the Department of Correction, which actually mirrors the number of parole revocations of 2014 over 2013. There is clearly a correlation. And my objective is to address this problem over the long term by working to change behavior of those who are coming out of prison, so they simply do not re-enter that process months and years later.

To accomplish this, we will need more space, but we will also need to invest in a more effective parole system, change behavior, and have an effective re-entry program for those who are leaving prison and hoping to get a job. Those are objectives on which I think we can work together, so that we can add prison space and, over the long term, we can change behavior and provide more opportunity for all.

Finally, we began this day with a prayer service, which is a custom in Arkansas. But I cannot tell you how much it meant to me. And in that prayer service, I had three of my former pastors participate. I needed three because it takes three pastors to keep me on the right path. I noted that each of them had a different theme. One said we should pray for wisdom for our leaders. Another talked about the importance of truth

as we make decisions. Then, finally, one talked about the importance of justice. And those are related, because as we pray for wisdom we will find truth and we will find justice. And those are essential ingredients. And if you will join me in prayer, we might start apart but I hope that our hearts will be knit, our hearts will come together, and we will find solutions that will work for Arkansas, that are unique to this state, and will allow us to build a new day in Arkansas. One in which our children and grandchildren will find their future right here in Arkansas, the state we love.

Thank you, and God bless you.

16. Announcements

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17. House reconvenes in five (5) minutes.

18. Senate reconvenes in ten (10) minutes.

SENATE BILL TRANSMITTED TO THE HOUSE

AS PASSED

SENATE BILL NO. 1

HOUSE BILL TRANSMITTED TO THE SENATE

AS PASSED

HOUSE BILL NO. 1001

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TRANSMITTED
TO THE SENATE AS ADOPTED

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1002

On motion of Senator Dismang, the Senate adjourned until 9:00 a.m.,
Wednesday, January 14, 2015

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SECRETARY OF THE SENATE