TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACTS 1-126

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS 127

SESSION DATES 128-130

INDEX 131-143

ADOPTION

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

PUTATIVE FATHERS

Act 1229 (HB2063) - Confidential information regarding the adoptive parents and child must be removed from the notice to the putative father that a petition for adoption has been filed.

FEDERAL ADOPTION AND SAFE FAMILIES ACT

Act 401 (SB211) - The act amends the Arkansas Juvenile Code to comply with the Federal Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997.

SUBSIDIES

Act 518 (SB284) - After reasonable efforts have been made and no appropriate adoptive family without the use of a subsidy has been found for a child, the Department of Human Services may certify the child as eligible for a subsidy in the event of adoption. In the case of a child who has established significant emotional ties with prospective adoptive parents while in their care as a foster child, the Department may certify the child as eligible for a subsidy without searching for families willing to take the child without a subsidy.

Act 945 (HB2040) - An adoption decree will not be entered in the juvenile court order book, but will be entered by the clerk of the probate court in the probate court order book. In the event the Department of Human Services has the opportunity to enhance its federal funding by a review of its adoptions records, the Administrator of Adoptions of the Department of Human Services is then authorized to open such files. With regard to adoption subsidies, the subsidy may be for special services not covered by any other available resources, which include health or education services. The subsidy agreement may be extended until the age of twenty-one years if the child has a documented disability or a condition that prevents the child from existing independently from the adoptive family. To be eligible for the extended subsidy, the family of the child must have applied for SSI benefits prior to the child turning eighteen years and have been denied.

ADULT ABUSE

PROTECTIVE PLACEMENT AND CUSTODY

Act 753 (HB1385) - The act revises the definitions of neglect, protective services, and subject of the report, it modifies the jurisdiction in adult protective custody cases; and clarifies the provisions regarding notice, emergency custody, temporary custody and the time for long-term custody hearings. The act also clarifies the provisions for sharing of information in investigations of deaths and other cases, clarifies the provisions regarding reports, notice of findings and administrative proceedings, provides for the identification and protection of assets of adults in protective custody and provides for penalties for making intentional false reports.

AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURE RECOGNITION DAY

Act 13 (HB1025) - The act designates the first Friday in March of each year as "Arkansas Agriculture Recognition Day."

BRANDING

Act 14 (HB1027) - The act authorizes the use of frozen chemicals for branding.

CATFISH PROMOTION BOARD

Act 790 (HB1660) - The act creates the Arkansas Catfish Promotion Board for the purpose of promoting the catfish industry in Arkansas.

DISTRICT FAIR BOARDS

NORTHEAST AND NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICTS

Act 99 (SB131) - The act removes the Sharp County member from the Northeast Arkansas District Fair Advisory Board and removes Independence County from the list of counties comprising the district for the North Central Arkansas District Fair and Livestock Show.

AGRICULTURE

EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA

Act 759 (HB1646) - The act repeals the sunset provision of the equine infectious anemia law, making the law permanent, and allows any citizen to make a complaint to the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission regarding animals suspected of being untested.

FERAL HOGS

HUNTING

Act 457 (HB1440) - The act defines feral hogs and allows the hunting of feral hogs.

FERTILIZER TONNAGE FEES

DISTRIBUTION OF PENALTY

Act 989 (HB2130) - The act provides that all penalties received by the State Plant Board for failure to pay or report fertilizer tonnage fees shall be remitted to the University of Arkansas to be credited to the University of Arkansas Soil Testing and Research Fund.

LATE PAYMENT PENALTY

Act 766 (HB1942) - The act provides that for a late report or failure to report the entire amount of fertilizer sold, the tonnage fee shall be enhanced by ten percent if less than fifteen days late, twenty percent if less than thirty-one days late, and doubled if more than thirty days late.

FIRE ANT ADVISORY BOARD, ARKANSAS

MEMBERSHIP

Act 1119 (HB2103) - The Vice President for Agriculture of the University of Arkansas System instead of the head of the Department of Forest Resources at the University of Arkansas at Monticello shall be a member of the Arkansas Fire Ant Advisory Board and a representative of the Arkansas Pest Control Association shall be a member of the board.

GRAIN AND SEED

AFLATOXIN LEVELS

Act 1374 (HB2248) - The level of aflatoxin in Arkansas grown grain and seed sold or distributed in this state shall be monitored by the State Plant Board.

PESTICIDES

ABANDONED AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDE DISPOSAL ADVISORY BOARD

Act 1174 (HB1913) - The Abandoned Agricultural Pesticide Disposal Act establishes the Abandoned Agricultural Pesticide Disposal Advisory Board and its membership, powers and duties. The act requires the board to advise the State Plant Board on matters relating to the collection and disposal of abandoned agricultural pesticides and authorizes the State Plant Board to use monies from the Abandoned Agricultural Pesticide and Plant Regulator Disposal Trust Fund for collection and disposal of abandoned agricultural pesticides.

ABANDONED PESTICIDES FUND

Act 420 (HB1341) - The act expresses the intent of the General Assembly to provide a method for the disposal of abandoned agricultural pesticides and creates the Abandoned Agricultural Pesticide and Plant Regulator Disposal Trust Fund to be used by the Department of Environmental Quality in developing and implementing plans to dispose of abandoned agricultural pesticides.

PROPERTY TAX

Act 486 (HB1114) - The Assessment Coordination Department shall not modify the value of agricultural, timber or pasture land unless it conducts at least one public hearing in each congressional district of this state with the last public hearing occurring no later than six (6) months prior to the date of the modification. The Department shall provide written justification for any modification of agricultural, timber or pasture land.

AGRICULTURE

RICE RESEARCH AND PROMOTION BOARD

Act 16 (HB1075) - The act makes changes in the make-up, powers and duties of the Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board; changes the qualifications for one board member and provides that each member shall be nominated by the organization he or she represents; repeals the board's authority to conduct referenda in each county; changes the rate of assessment on sales of rice; repeals a provision authorizing refunds to rice producers; authorizes collection of assessments at both the point of sale and the point of entry into the United States Department of Agriculture loan program; requires a motion of the board before disbursements may be made; authorizes the board to use its funds for extension; and authorizes the use of board funds to pay for any referenda the board may refer to producers or purchasers of rice.

SEED PURCHASES

ARBITRATION REQUIRED

Act 921 (HB1800) - If a buyer believes that agricultural seed has not performed as represented by the seller, the buyer must, as a prerequisite to any legal action, file a notice of intent to seek arbitration with the Plant Board. The act requires the director of the Plant Board to mediate the buyer's claim.

SOD AND NURSERY PRODUCT PRODUCTION

SALES TAX EXEMPTION

Act 1033 (SB91) - The act exempts the sale of equipment and machinery used for the agricultural production of sod and nursery products from the Arkansas gross receipts tax.

SOYBEAN PROMOTION BOARD, ARKANSAS

Act 351 (HB1448) - Members of the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board are to be nominated by the boards of the respective soybean producing organizations. Members of the Arkansas Wheat Promotion Board are to be nominated by the boards of the respective wheat producing organizations.

WHEAT PROMOTION BOARD, ARKANSAS

Act 351 (HB1448) - Members of the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board are to be nominated by the boards of the respective soybean producing organizations. Members of the Arkansas Wheat Promotion Board are to be nominated by the boards of the respective wheat producing organizations.

AIRPORTS

CONSTRUCTION WITHIN CLOSE PROXIMITY

REGULATION

Act 1278 (HB1704) - No structure in excess of one hundred feet in height may be constructed within twenty-five hundred feet from either side of the runway center line of a hard surface runway located on a public airport or military airport.

REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITIES

MUNICIPAL REGULATION LIMITED

Act 1420 (SB763) - The act authorizes certain Regional Airport Authorities to be exempt from the enactment of any rules, regulations, ordinances, permit requirements and enforcement by the municipality. A municipality may levy and collect a sales tax, a liquor tax, and a hotel, motel and restaurant tax on the operations located at the airport, but any other taxes or fees will require the approval of a majority vote of the board of directors of the authority. If a municipality in which the airport is located merges with or is annexed or consolidated to another city, an airport authority may de-annex from the municipality upon a majority vote of its board of directors.

POWERS AND DUTIES EXPANDED

AIRPORTS

REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITIES

POWERS AND DUTIES EXPANDED

Act 1349 (HB1940) - The act expands the powers and duties of Regional Airport Authorities to authorize the airport authorities to hire and designate policemen to enforce laws at airports and to build, maintain, and operate airport access roads. It also allows the airport authorities to issue bonds for the construction of airport access roads and to levy and collect tolls on the access roads to finance the indebtedness and construction of the roads.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

ADVERTISING

BEER WHOLESALERS

Act 1597 (HB2180) - When a large attendance facility permit has been issued to a government-owned facility located in a county with a population in excess of 300,000 people, Arkansas licensed beer wholesalers may pay for advertising devices used at the government-owned facility.

APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS

REAPPLICATION AFTER DENIAL

Act 1593 (SB445) - After the denial of an application for an alcoholic beverage control permit, no application will be accepted from that same applicant or real party in interest until the expiration of one year.

BED AND BREAKFAST PRIVATE CLUBS

SERVING WINE AND BEER PERMITTED

Act 1063 (HB2005) - The act authorizes bed and breakfast private clubs to serve wine and beer to guests under certain circumstances.

BEER AND WINE PERMITS

RESIDENCE AND CITIZENSHIP OF PERMIT HOLDERS

Act 948 (HB2050) - The act provides that United States residency or citizenship requirements for obtaining a beer or wine permit do not apply to officers, directors, or stockholders of corporations unless the officer, director, or stockholder is also the manager of the licensed premises.

BEER FESTIVAL PERMITS

AUTHORIZED

Act 1065 (SB659) - The act authorizes the Alcoholic Beverage Control Division to issue beer festival permits. Microbrewery-restaurants may sell their products for resale to charitable organizations holding special event permits from the Alcoholic Beverage Control Division.

BREWERIES

AUTHORIZED SALES

Act 467 (SB225) - The act authorizes Arkansas breweries to sell beer under the same circumstances as Arkansas Wineries are permitted to sell Arkansas wine.

DRAM SHOP LAW

Act 1596 (HB2010) - In civil cases where it has been proven that an alcoholic beverage retailer knowingly sold alcoholic beverages to a minor or a clearly intoxicated person or sold under circumstances where the retailer reasonably should have known that the purchaser was a minor or was clearly intoxicated, the jury may determine whether such sale constituted a proximate cause of any subsequent injury to a person.

ELECTIONS

SUFFICIENCY OF PETITION

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

ELECTIONS

SUFFICIENCY OF PETITION

Act 637 (HB1750) - To determine the sufficiency of a petition for a local option election the total number of voters registered, as certified by the county clerk to the Secretary of State by the first of June each year pursuant to Amendment 51, shall be the basis upon which the number of signatures of qualified electors on petitions shall be computed. A person must be a registered voter at the time of signing the petition.

GROCERY ESTABLISHMENTS

SALES BY MINORS

Act 1169 (SB391) - Persons under 18 years of age may sell or otherwise handle beer and cooking wines at retail grocery establishments with the written consent of the minor's parent or guardian.

LOCAL CLOSING HOURS

PENALTIES

Act 305 (SB321) - The violation of any local closing hour ordinance which is more restrictive than that provided by the state is punishable by a fine of one hundred dollars ($100) to five hundred dollars ($500) and the violation shall not be considered to be an administrative violation against the permit issued by the Alcoholic Beverage Control Division.

MICROBREWERIES

EXPANDED AUTHORITY

Act 1065 (SB659) - The act authorizes the Alcoholic Beverage Control Division to issue beer festival permits. Microbrewery-restaurants may sell their products for resale to charitable organizations holding special event permits from the Alcoholic Beverage Control Division.

MIXED DRINK TAX

PAYMENT

Act 910 (HB1611) - The act abolishes the requirement that taxpayers renewing their liquor permits procure a bond to secure payment of their mixed drink tax.

OFF-PREMISE CATERER'S PERMIT

AUTHORIZED

Act 1170 (SB800) - The act authorizes the Alcoholic Beverage Control Division to issue off-premise caterer's permits.

PERMITS

EXTENSION OF GRANDFATHER PROVISION

Act 1594 (SB670) - In any instance where (1) a retail liquor permit was issued after February 18, 1971; (2) the permitted premise is located outside an incorporated city or town, and is located within five miles of two other liquor stores that were grandfathered, each of the other stores being on either side of the newer liquor store; (3) the newer liquor store and one of the grandfathered liquor stores are both located in the same county and the second grandfathered liquor store is located in an adjoining county; and (4) all three liquor stores are located within one mile of a federal interstate highway, then the middle liquor store may be considered as a grandfathered liquor store on the same basis as its competitors and may sell items which would not ordinarily be allowed if the permit were granted after February 18, 1971.

PRIVATE CLUBS

AUTHORITY TO ISSUE

Act 632 (HB1681) - The Alcoholic Beverage Control Division may continue to issue permits for the sale of alcoholic beverages in any political subdivision of this state of the same kind and type issued prior to July 4, 1996, provided that the voters of the political subdivision have not, since July 4, 1996, held a local option election.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

PRIVATE CLUBS

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT

Act 1371 (HB2184) - A person shall be required to become a member of a private club in any wet area of the state only upon ordering alcoholic beverages other than beer or wine. If the private club also holds a retail beer permit, retail wine for consumption on-premises permit or café or restaurant wine permit, the hours of operation authorized for the private club shall likewise apply to all permits of the entity.

SALE OF WINE FOR ON-PREMISES CONSUMPTION

LICENSES

Act 856 (SB570) - The act authorizes the Director of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Division to issue licenses for the sale of wine for on-premises consumption.

SUNDAY SALES

LOCAL ORDINANCES

Act 857 (SB356) - Wet cities may adopt ordinances to refer to the voters the issue of whether or not to authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages on Sunday between the hours of 12 noon and 10:00 p.m. or within a lesser period within such hours.

WHOLESALE SUPPORT CENTERS

Act 96 (SB77) - The act authorizes the Alcoholic Beverage Control Division to issue permits for wholesale support centers, defined as facilities located within a wholesaler's premises at which beer and malt liquor are stored by a manufacturer for resale to wholesalers or distributors.

WINE SOLD IN RESTAURANTS

SALE FOR OFF-PREMISES CONSUMPTION

Act 1064 (HB2026) - The act provides that any restaurant licensed to sell wine and which is located in a city with a population of under 600 people and in a county with a population of under 17,500 people and within three miles of a river which serves as a common boundary between the county and another state is entitled to sell wine in unopened containers for off premises consumption.

AMUSEMENT DEVICES

AMUSEMENTS STUDY COMMISSION

Act 1166 (SB953) - The act creates the Amusements Study Commission to study the effects of coin-operated amusements in Arkansas. The Commission shall study whether such amusements constitute lotteries which are prohibited by the Arkansas Constitution and whether the amusements, if constitutionally permissible, are properly regulated and taxed.

COIN OPERATED AMUSEMENTS

Act 1231 (HB2185) - The act amends various sections of the Arkansas code regarding amusement devices.

ANIMALS

ANIMAL SHELTERS

STERILIZATION

Act 488 (HB1442) - In any county with more than three hundred thousand people any dog or cat over the age of two months which is released by an animal shelter to a new owner must be sterilized prior to release.

EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA

Act 759 (HB1646) - The act repeals the sunset provision of the equine infectious anemia law, making the law permanent, and allows any citizen to make a complaint to the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission regarding animals suspected of being untested.

ANIMALS

SERVICE ANIMAL

Act 571 (HB1256) - The act makes it a Class D felony to kill or injure a "service animal" and requires the perpetrator to make restitution to the owner.

ARKANSAS CODE

CODE REVISION COMMISSION, ARKANSAS

POWERS

Act 751 (HB1318) - The act expands the powers of the Arkansas Code Revision Commission in codifying the acts of the General Assembly and specifically provides that the Code Revision Commission is a part of the legislative branch of government.

CORRECTION OF REFERENCES TO EDUCATION AGENCIES

Act 1140 (SB838) - The act authorizes the Arkansas Code Revision Commission to change various sections of the Arkansas Code to refer to the Department of Education, State Board of Education, Department of Workforce Education, State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities, and the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

MULTIPLE ENACTMENTS

DATE OF ENACTMENT

Act 403 (SB264) - When multiple acts concerning the same subject are passed at the same session, the act last signed by the Governor repeals the earlier act to the extent of conflicts and if the Governor does not sign one or both of the acts then the act which was last voted on by either house of the General Assembly shall be deemed to have repealed the other act.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

Act 1508 (HB2199) - The act makes technical corrections to the Arkansas Code.

ATHLETE AGENTS

Act 1186 (SB429) - The act amends various provisions of the laws pertaining to agents for athletes.

AUCTIONEERS

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Act 1506 (HB2191) - The act requires auctioneers licensed after January 1, 1999 to complete six hours of continuing education annually as a condition of renewal of his or her auctioneer license and provides that the continuing education programs shall be approved by the Auctioneer's Licensing Board.

OMNIBUS REVISIONS

Act 1333 (HB1560) - The act amends various provisions of the Arkansas Code pertaining to auctioneers. Included in the changes are provisions providing that written contracts are to be required and providing for injunctive relief. The Auctioneer's Licensing Board is also provided with the authority to inspect the premises of an auction or auction house for the presence of a license and the authority to order unlicensed auctioneers or auction houses to cease and desist.

TRUST FUND CLAIMS

Act 227 (HB1059) - The act requires the Auctioneer's Licensing Board to maintain a trust fund to pay claims against licensed auctioneers by collecting a fee from each licensee and applicant in lieu of the bond currently required.

BAIL BONDS

APPREHENSION OF DEFENDANTS

Act 1445 (HB1163) - The act designates licensed private investigators, certified law enforcement officers, licensed bail bond agents or persons under their direct supervision as persons authorized to apprehend a defendant on a bail bond.

PROFESSIONAL BAIL BOND COMPANY AND PROFESSIONAL BAIL BONDSMAN LICENSING BOARD

DE NOVO APPEAL

Act 1477 (HB1884) - The act provides for the removal of the de novo appeal from orders of the Professional Bail Bond Company and Professional Bail Bondsman Licensing Board.

STIPENDS

Act 1286 (HB2002) - The act provides a seventy-five dollar per day stipend for members of the Professional Bail Bond Company and Professional Bail Bondsman Licensing Board.

PROFESSIONAL BAIL BOND COMPANY LICENSES

Act 567 (HB1117) - The act amends various sections of the Arkansas Code regarding professional bail bond company licenses.

PROFESSIONAL BAIL BONDSMAN LICENSE

CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK

Act 1346 (HB1883) - The act requires applicants for a professional bail bondman license to undergo a criminal background check to be conducted by the FBI.

BUSINESS LAW

ACCOUNTANTS

PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY ACT, ARKANSAS

Act 180 (HB1173) - The act makes various technical corrections to the Arkansas Public Accountancy Act.

BANKS

BANK REORGANIZATION THROUGH PLANS OF EXCHANGE

Act 117 (HB1305) - The act amends various provisions in the Arkansas Code to clarify the procedures to reorganize a bank using a plan of exchange.

DEFINITIONS AND NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Act 113 (HB1202) - The act amends various sections of the Banking Code relating to definitions and notice requirements.

INVESTMENTS IN OPERATING SUBSIDIARIES

Act 112 (HB1201) - The act amends various sections of the Banking Code relating to investments in operating subsidiaries.

SECURING OF CERTAIN DEPOSITS

Act 116 (HB1304) - The act allows the securing of certain deposits by a state bank.

CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

SALES COMPETING WITH FOR-PROFIT BUSINESS

Act 1062 (HB1573) - The sale of new tangible personal property by charitable organizations is subject to sales tax when the sale directly competes with for-profit businesses. The act does not apply to sales made by nonprofit hospitals, cafeterias at nonprofit hospitals, or gift shops at nonprofit hospitals.

SOLICITATION OF FUNDS

Act 1198 (SB635) - The act regulates the solicitation of charitable funds within the State of Arkansas.

BUSINESS LAW

COLLECTION AGENCIES

Act 1500 (HB2095) - The act amends various provisions of the Arkansas Code regarding collection agencies.

CORPORATIONS

BUSINESS CORPORATION ACT, ARKANSAS

Act 480 (SB462) - The act removes the reference to 4-26-101 et seq. from Arkansas Code 4-29-302.

DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES CORPORATION, ARKANSAS

Act 1583 (SB955) - The act changes the membership of the Arkansas Deaf and Hearing Impaired Telecommunications Services Corporation to include one person submitted by representatives of the deaf and hearing impaired community and one submitted by representatives of Arkansas local exchange carriers.

FRANCHISE TAX - PENALTIES

Act 673 (SB374) - The act repeals the penalty assessed against corporations for failure to furnish certain franchise tax information to the Secretary of State.

FRANCHISE TAX - REPORT FORM

Act 1056 (SB853) - The act requires the Secretary of State to furnish a franchise tax report form to each corporation subject to the franchise tax by mailing the form to the current agent for service of process or other person identified by the corporation. A corporation filing a franchise report may state who is to receive the franchise tax form the following year if that person is different from the agent for service on file for the corporation at that time.

FRANCHISE TAX - RETURN FILING AND REMITTANCE

Act 1037 (SB376) - A corporation which fails to comply with the Secretary of State's franchise tax filing and remittance requirements shall be assessed a $25.00 penalty plus interest on the tax and penalty from the date due until paid at the rate of ten percent (10%) per annum. The act provides that the franchise tax, penalty and interest for any tax year shall not exceed two (2) times the corporations' tax owed.

HABILITATIVE SERVICES CORPORATIONS

Act 880 (SB777) - The act prescribes the procedure for forming a habilitative services corporation.

NON-PROFIT CORPORATIONS

Act 26 (HB1116) - The act allows non-profit corporations formed prior to January 1, 1994, to choose by a majority vote to be subject to the Arkansas Non-Profit Corporation Act of 1993.

PROFESSIONAL CORPORATIONS

Act 481 (SB463) - Persons incorporated under the Professional Corporation Act, the Medical Corporation Act, or the Dental Corporation Act, who need to convert to a business corporation may do so by filing an amendment in accordance with Arkansas Code 4-27-1006.

REINSTATEMENT OF CHARTER

Act 522 (SB382) - A corporation whose charter or permit authority to do business in the state has been declared forfeited by proclamation of the Governor or the Secretary of State may be reinstated to all its rights, powers, and property retroactive to the time that the corporation's authority to do business in the state was declared forfeited. The act also reduces the time period for which a corporation can seek reinstatement from 15 to 7 years.

RURAL FIRE PROTECTION CORPORATION

Act 880 (SB777) - The act prescribes the procedure for forming a rural fire protection corporation.

BUSINESS LAW

CORPORATIONS

SUBCHAPTER T CORPORATIONS

Act 980 (HB1849) - The act provides that corporations that are organized as cooperatives within the meaning of subchapter T of the Internal Revenue Code may make distributions to their members in accordance with subchapter T.

WATER PROVIDER CORPORATIONS

Act 1003 (SB878) - The act prescribes the procedure for forming a water provider corporation to provide potable water and other associated services to Arkansas residents.

CREDIT CARDS

CREDIT CARD SOLICITATION

Act 1328 (HB1147) - The act restricts credit card solicitation on college campuses.

EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

Act 1584 (SB963) - The act provides that when an Arkansas based Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) buys at least twenty percent (20%) of the stock of an Arkansas based business entity formed under Arkansas law and the Director of the Arkansas Department of Economic Development determines that had it not been for the purchase by the ESOP that Arkansas jobs would have been lost, the Arkansas based business entity shall be qualified for any bond guaranty programs administered by the Arkansas Department of Economic Development or the Arkansas Development Finance Authority.

FOREIGN BUSINESS TRUSTS

FILING OF ARTICLES, DECLARATION OF TRUST OR TRUST AGREEMENT

Act 1366 (HB2140) - The act establishes procedures for a foreign business trust to file a copy of its articles, declaration of trust or trust agreement with the Secretary of State.

LIMITED LIABILITY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

FILING FEES

Act 887 (SB452) - The act establishes filing fees for limited liability limited partnership filings.

LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS

FILING FEES

Act 886 (SB451) - The act establishes fees for domestic limited partnership filings.

MATERIALMEN'S LIENS

EXEMPTION FROM NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Act 1466 (HB1612) - The act amends the materialmen's lien laws to exempts direct sales to property owners from the materialman's lien notice requirements.

MORTGAGE LOAN COMPANY AND LOAN BROKER ACT

CORPORATE SURETY BONDS

Act 362 (SB209) - The act amends various sections of the Mortgage Loan Company and Loan Broker Act.

PARTNERSHIPS

INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS

Act 1283 (HB1983) - The act amends various provisions of the Arkansas Income Tax Act to clarify the taxation of nonresident partners of investment partnerships.

REVISED LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS

Act 1528 (SB414) - The act makes technical corrections to the "Small Business Entity Tax Pass Through Act" and the "Revised Limited Partnership Act."

UNIFORM PARTNERSHIP ACT

Act 1518 (SB231) - The act adopts the "Uniform Partnership Act (1996)."

BUSINESS LAW

SECURITIES

CUSTODIANS FOR DOMESTIC INSURANCE COMPANIES

Act 452 (HB1339) - The act allows domestic insurers to maintain custodied securities with securities brokerage firms meeting certain qualifications.

OFFERS

Act 363 (SB210) - The act amends various sections of the Arkansas Securities Act regarding offers.

STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

Act 1225 (HB2023) - The act decreases from five years to three years the statute of limitations for certain securities violations.

SMALL BUSINESS ENTITY TAX PASS THROUGH ACT

Act 1528 (SB414) - The act makes technical corrections to the "Small Business Entity Tax Pass Through Act" and the "Revised Limited Partnership Act."

STATE CHARTERED TRUST COMPANIES

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OR CONSERVATOR

Act 635 (HB1727) - The act allows state chartered and regulated trust companies to be appointed as a personal representative or conservator.

UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE

UNIFORM FEES

Act 1480 (HB1965) - The act prescribes uniform filing fees under various provisions of the secured transactions chapter of the Uniform Commercial Code.

UNIFORM PRINCIPAL AND INCOME ACT

Act 647 (HB1701) - The act repeals the Arkansas Revised Uniform Principal and Income Act and in its place enacts the Uniform Principal and Income Act.

CHILDREN

ADVOCACY CENTERS

Act 1575 (SB897) - The act authorizes the Department of Arkansas State Police to contract with or provide grants to childrens' advocacy centers.

CHILD CARE

Act 1222 (HB1858) - The act amends various provisions of the Arkansas Code pertaining to child care and the expanded role of the Division of Child and Family Services.

CHILD MALTREATMENT

CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE

Act 36 (HB1110) - The act clarifies that Central Intake and the Child Abuse Hotline are the same entity.

Act 214 (HB1111) - The act clarifies that the Child Abuse Hotline is to be provided notification of suspected abuse or neglect of children. The act also requires the investigating agency to immediately notify local law enforcement on all reports of severe maltreatment.

NOTIFICATION

Act 626 (HB1257) - The prosecuting attorney may provide written notice that he wishes to receive notification of an initial maltreatment report to the Department of Human Services. Upon receiving the notification, the department shall not be required to provide notification of the initial maltreatment report to the prosecuting attorney's office.

OMNIBUS REVISIONS

Act 1340 (HB1735) - The act amends various provisions of the Arkansas Juvenile Code and the Child Maltreatment Act.

CHILDREN

CHILD OFFENDER REGISTRATION

Act 1353 (HB1963) - The act amends the Sex and Child Offender Registration Act of 1997. Included in the changes is the inclusion of juveniles and the transfer of the duties to perform the assessments from local police to the Arkansas Department of Correction.

CHILD SUPPORT

EMPLOYEES OF OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

Act 882 (SB960) - Employees of the Office of Child Support Enforcement who were formerly employed by a public contractor with a contract in effect as of January 1, 1998 shall be entitled to credit for service for the time they were employed by the contractor for the purposes of establishing eligibility for annual leave accrual and career service awards to the same extent as regular state employees.

EXPIRATION OF CHILD SUPPORT

Act 1075 (SB509) - The act provides the procedure by which the child support obligation is adjusted when the obligation for one child expires.

OMNIBUS REVISIONS

Act 1514 (SB25) - The act amends various sections of the Arkansas Code relating to child support enforcement proceedings.

CHILD WELFARE AGENCY LICENSING ACT

Act 1319 (SB784) - The act amends the Child Welfare Agency Licensing Act. A license shall be required in addition to any other license required by law for all entities that fit the definition of a child welfare agency and not specifically exempted except that no nonpsychiatric residential treatment facility or agency licensed or exempted shall be deemed to fall within the meaning of Arkansas Code 20-10-101(7) for any purpose. Any child welfare agency licensed or permitted by the Child Welfare Review Board as of 1999 is exempted from the requirements of law to obtain a license or permit from the Office of Long-Term Care and to obtain a permit from the Health Services Agency and Commission.

CUSTODY

PARENTAL RIGHTS

Act 1240 (HB2193) - The act requires the Department of Human Services to provide informational materials to parents whose children have been placed in state custody.

UNIFORM CHILD CUSTODY JURISDICTION AND ENFORCEMENT ACT

Act 668 (SB207) - The act repeals the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act of 1979 and replaces it with the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act of 1999.

EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMISSION, ARKANSAS

Act 1560 (SB821) - The chairperson of the House Subcommittee on Children and Youth of the House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs and the chairperson of the Senate Committee on Children and Youth are to appoint one member each to the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission.

FIREARMS

Act 1149 (SB364) - When a parent of a minor knows that the minor is in illegal possession of a firearm in or upon the premises of a public or private school, in or on the school's athletic stadium or other facility or building where school sponsored events are conducted, or public park, playground or civic center, and the parent or guardian fails to prevent the possession or fails to report the possession to the appropriate school or law enforcement officials, the parent shall be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

CHILDREN

FOSTER CARE

CRIMINAL RECORDS

Act 328 (SB213) - The act prohibits the Department of Human Services from placing foster children in a home in which any foster parent has been convicted of a felony involving family violence, sexual abuse or drug abuse.

REMOVAL AND PLACEMENT OF JUVENILES

Act 1363 (HB2116) - The act develops a notification procedure for changes in placement of children in foster care.

GUARDIANSHIP

STAND-BY GUARDIAN

Act 517 (SB214) - The act creates stand-by guardians in order to comply with the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act. A stand-by guardianship may be appointed for any parent who is chronically ill or near death without surrendering any parental rights. The stand-by guardian would assume guardianship over the child upon the death, mental incapacity or physical debilitation of the parent.

JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITIES

Act 770 (SB249) - The act authorizes the Director of the Department of Health or an agent to enter the controlled premises of juvenile facilities operated by or under contract with the Division of Youth Services of the Department of Human Services and conduct random and unannounced health inspections of the facilities and authorizes the Director of the Department of Correction or an agent to enter those facilities and conduct random and unannounced security inspections.

JUVENILE OFFENDERS

EXTENDED JUVENILE JURISDICTION

Act 1192 (SB505) - The Extended Juvenile Jurisdiction Act allows juveniles under the age of 14 years, at the time of the alleged offense, to be charged as extended juvenile jurisdiction offenders for capital murder and first degree murder.

HOUSING

Act 1030 (HB1315) - The act requires juvenile offenders committed to the Division of Youth Services to be separated by age and seriousness of the offense.

Act 1272 (HB1316) - The act requires the Division of Youth Services of the Department of Human Services to establish a separate facility to house offenders between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one who have been committed to the Division of Youth Services. The act requires the facility to be in operation by July 1, 2000 but is contingent upon funding.

JUVENILE OMBUDSMAN DIVISION

Act 1580 (SB915) - The act creates the Juvenile Ombudsman Division within the Public Defender Commission.

RECORDS OF ARREST OR DETENTION

Act 954 (SB206) - The act provides for the exchange of information regarding the arrest and detention of a juvenile, otherwise confidential, only pursuant to a written order by a juvenile judge and only to certain specified persons.

LEGAL COUNSEL

DEPENDENCY-NEGLECT, CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP CASES

Act 708 (SB221) - The act provides for legal counsel for children in dependency-neglect cases, for children in chancery cases involving custody and for children in probate cases involving guardianship.

CHILDREN

PARENTAL RIGHTS

STATE CUSTODY OF JUVENILES

Act 1240 (HB2193) - The act requires the Department of Human Services to provide informational materials to parents whose children have been placed in state custody.

TERMINATION

Act 1306 (HB1932) - A parent may withdraw consent to termination of parental rights within ten calendar days after it was signed, by filing an affidavit with the clerk of the juvenile court in the county designated by the consent as the county in which the termination of parental rights will be filed. The consent to terminate parental rights shall state that the person has the right of withdrawal of consent and shall provide the address of the juvenile court clerk of the county in which the termination of parental rights will be filed.

PUTATIVE FATHER REGISTRY

Act 1054 (SB825) - The act requires a notarized affidavit from the putative father to register in the putative father registry.

VISITATION

Act 1129 (HB1459) - The act amends the crime of interference with visitation. The act adds an affirmative defense to the crime and revises the penalties for the offense.

YOUTH MEDIATION PROGRAM

Act 628 (HB1555) - The act creates an Arkansas Youth Mediation Program at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law and the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville School of Law. The purpose of the program is to prevent conflicts arising from confrontation and violence among youth in Arkansas. Included in the programs is the authority to operate pilot projects offering mediation services for disputes in schools involving youth, juvenile delinquency cases, FINS cases, and dependency-neglect cases.

YOUTH SERVICES, DIVISION OF

EMPLOYEE TRAINING

Act 469 (SB250) - The act increases the training and education requirements for youth service workers and security officers employed by the Division of Youth Services of the Department of Human Services.

PRIVATIZATION

Act 525 (SB504) - The act requires the Department of Human Services to report to the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth and the House Interim Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs when the agency privatizes a function previously performed by state employees of the Division of Youth Services. The act also requires the Department of Human Services to report to the Committees on the performance evaluation of each contract.

CITIES

ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION TAX

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Act 1313 (SB337) - The act provides that a tourist attraction with total gross receipts of seven hundred fifty thousand dollars ($750,000) or more which has a portion of the real property on which the attraction is located that abuts and adjoins a city may petition the adjoining city to be included in the levy and collection of the cities advertising and promotion tax.

ANNEXATION

NO ANNEXATION OF LANDS WITHIN ONE-HALF MILE OF A STATE PARK EXTENDED

Act 1495 (HB2066) - The act extends the ban on annexing lands in counties of 350,000 or more within one-half mile of a state park to include the lands on the opposite side of and south of an existing railroad right-of-way from the state park.

CITIES

ANNEXATION

NOTICES OF THE ANNEXATION ELECTION

Act 639 (HB1757) - The act changed the time required for the county clerk to give notice of the voter registration deadlines for a municipal annexation election from the current 20 days before the election to no less than 40 days before the election. The notices are sent by ordinary mail to those persons whose names and addresses are on the list provided by the city clerk.

AUDITS

Act 636 (HB1749) - The act authorizes the staff of the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee to prepare a report of agreed upon procedures of the records and accounts of incorporated towns or second class cities or in the alternative authorizes the incorporated towns and second class cities to employ licensed accountants to prepare such report.

CITY TREASURER

INVESTMENT OF CITY CASH FUNDS

Act 1341 (HB1793) - The act authorizes cities of the first class with real property valuation in excess of $400,000,000 or groups of cities having in excess of $1,000,000,000 in real property valuation to invest cash funds in securities in which banks are permitted to invest. Investments shall be governed by the following investment objectives, in order of priority: preservation and safety of principal; liquidity; and yield.

CITY-MANAGER GOVERNMENT

MUSEUM BOARDS MAY HAVE NON-RESIDENTS APPOINTED

Act 1295 (SB685) - The act amends the city-manager government law to permit the board of directors to appoint persons, at its discretion, who reside outside the city to museum boards and commissions. Previously, the law required members of all city-manager city boards to reside within the city.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

FIREMEN AGE EXCEPTION

Act 303 (SB97) - The act provides exceptions to the maximum age limit for appointment to any position with a fire department in cities with civil service commissions. It changed the current maximum age limit of 32 years old to now allow the hiring of a person who has at least 2 years of experience as a paid firefighter with another fire department and whose years of experience as a paid firefighter when subtracted from the person's age leaves a remainder of not more than thirty-two (32) years. It also allows the hiring of a person who is applying for a administrative, managerial, or supervisory position with the fire department.

CONSOLIDATION OF CITIES

ELECTION ON THE PROPOSED NAME OF CONSOLIDATED CITY

Act 1266 (SB916) - The act requires that when holding an election on the question of consolidating two municipalities, then a separate question on the name of the consolidated city will also be placed on the election ballot. If a majority of voters in each of the cities vote in favor of the proposed name, then the name of the new consolidated city will become the name placed on the ballot. If a majority of one of the two cities does not approve the name question, then the name of the consolidated city will become the name of the larger of the two cities which are consolidated.

DETACHMENT OF LANDS

LAND OWNED INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CITY

Act 128 (SB74) - The act allows a landowner, within three (3) years after an annexation, to detach land from a city if he or she owns the land which is inside and outside the city along the city's boundary, provided no utility services are supplied to those lands. The act requires the detachment ordinance to be approved by the city council and filed with the county court.

CITIES

DETACHMENT OF LANDS

MUNICIPAL SERVICES PROVIDED OR LAND ANNEXED TO ANOTHER CITY

Act 779 (SB510) - The act authorizes landowners seeking additional municipal services to have their land detached from the municipality in which it is located and to have it annexed to another municipality that borders the land. Before detachment and annexation is allowed, the act requires that the municipality in which the land is located will have an opportunity to provide the services. It then prescribes a procedure to detach and annex the lands to another city which will provide the services.

SIMULTANEOUS DETACHMENT AND ANNEXATION BETWEEN CITIES

Act 988 (HB2129) - The act authorizes two adjoining cities to detach land from one and annex land to the other in a single mutually agreeable procedure. It requires the city desiring to annex land in the adjoining city to pass an ordinance calling for detachment and annexation and to send the ordinance to the governing body of the city or town in which the lands are located. After a public hearing on the issue, the governing body of the other city in which the lands are located may pass an ordinance to concur in the detachment and annexation. This creates a prima facie case for detachment and annexation of the lands to the new city.

ELECTIONS

ALDERMAN

Act 752 (HB1334) - The petition for nomination for at-large candidates for alderman of a ward in cities of the first and second class may be signed by any qualified elector of the city.

WRITE-IN VOTES

Act 640 (HB1759) - Write-in votes cannot be used municipal office elections.

JOINT COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY

MEMBERS' PER DIEM INCREASED

Act 472 (SB319) - The act increases the per diem for members of the sanitation authority board from $25.00 to $100.00 per meeting.

MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

AUTHORIZES CREATION OF DISTRICT

Act 230 (SB196) - The act authorizes cities to create a municipal management district to manage, develop, construct and maintain public works and projects in areas of the city. It requires a petition to the city's governing body by 90% of the property owners within the district and limits projects to less than $2,000,000 and district size to a maximum of 1 square mile. Upon termination of the district, the city shall accept maintenance responsibility for the improvements and the life of the district shall not exceed ten (10) years.

NUISANCE

Act 1561 (SB827) - The act defines as a nuisance any property which has been the subject of various convictions of health and safety code violations and authorizes the chancery courts to enjoin permanently the person conducting or maintaining the nuisance.

OATH

Act 650 (HB1762) - All officers, elected or appointed, in a municipality shall take the oath or affirmation prescribed by the Arkansas Constitution for officers. It prescribes that the oath must be sworn before the Secretary of State, any justice or judge, judge of the county court, clerk of the county court, clerk of the circuit court, or justice of the peace

PARKING

ENFORCEMENT

Act 1247 (HB2250) - First and second class cities and incorporated towns are authorized to contract with private sector entities to enforce municipal parking ordinances and to issue citations and collect fines.

CITIES

PARKING

REGULATION

Act 1199 (SB664) - Subtitle 4 of Title 27 of the Arkansas Code pertaining to motor vehicular traffic shall not be deemed to prevent local authorities from establishing districts for the purpose of limiting the time, place and manner of public parking in designated areas.

PROPERTY

EXCHANGE WITH OTHER CITIES AND COUNTIES

Act 1248 (HB2251) - Municipalities may exchange real and personal property with other municipalities or counties.

PUBLIC FACILITIES BOARDS

BOARD MEMBERS NOT RESIDENTS

Act 782 (SB676) - The act allows the mayor or the county judge to appoint initial members of the public facilities board and members are not required to be residents of the municipality or county which has created the public facilities board. Vacancies may be filled by successor members selected under alternative means by the bylaws of the public facilities board or by a city or county ordinance.

PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITIES

MUNICIPAL POLICE MAY PERFORM CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

Act 1473 (HB1799) - The act authorizes a public housing authority to request that a municipal police department perform a criminal background check on adult applicants for public housing. The public housing authority must get the signature of the applicant on an acceptable form to permit the background check. The police department may perform the criminal background check at a cost of not more than $15.00 to the public housing authority.

SALES AND USE TAX

SINGLE TRANSACTION DEFINITION

Act 1137 (SB770) - The "single transaction" definition for local taxes must be adopted prior to commencement of the collection of the tax.

SALES TAX

APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE LEVYING TAX

Act 1289 (HB2089) - The act requires the director of the Department of Finance and Administration to approve each ordinance levying a city or county sales and use tax.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Act 1324 (SB927) - The act allows a legislative body which determines that a sales and use tax of one percent (1%) or less would, if levied for no longer than sixty (60) months, produce sufficient revenue to finance capital improvements of a public nature without resorting to a bond issue, to dispense with the issuance of bonds, levy the tax for no longer than sixty (60) months, and appropriate the resulting revenues.

SUNDAY SALES OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

ELECTIONS

Act 857 (SB356) - Wet cities may adopt ordinances to refer to the voters the issue of whether or not to authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages on Sunday between the hours of 12 noon and 10:00 p.m. or within a lesser period within such hours.

TOURISM ATTRACTIONS AND FACILITIES

Act 307 (HB1522) - The act amends the definition of "industry" under the Industrial Development Revenue Bond law (so-called Act 9 bonds) to include the issuance of industrial revenue bonds by municipalities and counties for the financing of tourism attractions and facilities. It also facilitates the issuance of industrial revenue bonds by reducing requirements for public hearings on refinancing of bond issues and enhances the security of such bonds through the pledging of surplus utility revenues in appropriate circumstances all for the purpose of securing and developing industry.

CITIES

UTILITY FRANCHISE FEES

NOTICE NECESSARY FOR COLLECTIONS IN ANNEXED AREAS

Act 576 (HB1492) - The act requires the municipality levying the utility franchise fee to notify the utility's agent for service of process of the ordinance levying the fee. It also requires the city or town to notify the utility's registered agent for service of process after an annexation occurs, otherwise the utility shall not be liable for any additional franchise fees for utility service in newly annexed areas.

WATER AND SEWAGE SERVICE

FINANCIAL AUDIT

Act 218 (HB1398) - Any county, municipality, improvement district, or not-for-profit association or entity receiving fees from customers for providing water or sewage services must obtain an annual financial audit of the system if the system has at least 500 service connections during any fiscal year. Any county, municipality, improvement district, or not-for-profit association or entity receiving fees from customers for providing water or sewage services and having between 100 and 500 service connections during any fiscal year must obtain an annual audit or an annual report of agreed upon procedures.

WATER AND WATER-GENERATED ELECTRIC COMPANIES

CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS

Act 55 (SB204) - The act changes the determination of damages from jury based to "by law" in the assessment of damages in condemnation proceedings by municipal corporations which supply water to consumers.

WATERWORKS COMMISSION

MEMBERSHIP TO BE APPOINTED FROM THE AREA SERVED

Act 95 (SB67) - The act provides that a city of the first class which has a waterworks commission is authorized to appoint members to the commission who are qualified electors of any area served by the city (instead of just from the city).

TERMS FOR LONG-TERM SUPPLY CONTRACTS FOR WATER

Act 1294 (SB540) - The act changes the language of the law specifying how a city waterworks commission can determine the length and rates for long-term water supply contracts for other cities and areas outside of the city supplying the water. The act authorizes the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission to specify a different form or length of contract when it is best in meeting the long term water supply needs of the contracting parties and if the commission is involved in the financing of the waterworks supply lines.

CIVIL LAW AND PROCEDURE

CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS

NOTICE BY CERTIFIED MAIL

Act 1236 (HB2161) - The act requires certain corporations seeking a right-of-way by petition filed in circuit court to give the property owners notice in writing by certified mail return receipt requested of the time and place where the petition will be heard.

FORECLOSURE

STATUTORY FORECLOSURE ACT

Act 983 (HB1967) - The act amends various sections of the Statutory Foreclosure Act of 1987.

GAMBLING DEBTS

UNENFORCEABLE

Act 985 (HB2061) - The act provides that gambling on credit is an unenforceable contract regardless of whether the contract was entered into within this state or without this state.

CIVIL LAW AND PROCEDURE

IMMUNITY

CORONER'S INVESTIGATIONS

Act 812 (HB1941) - No person, institution or office which makes available, pursuant to Arkansas Code 14-15-302, information or material resulting from a coroner's investigation shall be liable for violating any criminal law of this state nor be held liable in tort for complying with 14-15-302.

COURT IMMUNITY

Act 984 (HB2028) - Entities created by political subdivisions of this state are immune from tort liability except to the extent the entities are covered by liability insurance.

DEFIBRILLATORS

Act 101 (HB1006) - The act sets standards for the ownership and use of automated external defibrillators and exempts from civil liability any appropriately trained person who uses an automated external defibrillator in an emergency, if the person acts as a reasonable, prudent person would have acted under the given circumstances.

ELECTION OFFICIALS

Act 1422 (SB942) - The act clarifies and reaffirms that the county board of election commissioners are to be considered county officials and therefore are immune from tort liability.

LIMITATION OF ACTIONS

IMPRISONMENT BEYOND THE LIMITS OF THE STATE

Act 18 (SB51) - The act removes the disability of being imprisoned beyond the limits of the state from the disabilities which will toll the running of the statute of limitations after the accrual of a cause of action.

PRIORITY OF LIENS

VEHICLE REPAIRMEN AND BLACKSMITHS

Act 695 (SB597) - The act makes a vehicle repairman's or blacksmith's lien subject to a perfected lien of a financial institution.

RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS

DISCRETION IN ENFORCEMENT

Act 1380 (SB387) - The act grants discretion to chancellors to balance equities among parties when considering whether to award injunctions or damages in cases involving encroachment of interior setback lines in residential subdivision restrictive covenants. Also provides that if the judge finds a violation to be de minimis, no attorney's fees shall be awarded to any party seeking to enforce the restriction.

SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

PROXIMATE CAUSE OF INJURY

Act 1596 (HB2010) - In civil cases where it has been proven that an alcoholic beverage retailer knowingly sold alcoholic beverages to a minor or a clearly intoxicated person or sold under circumstances where the retailer reasonably should have known that the purchaser was a minor or was clearly intoxicated, the jury may determine whether such sale constituted a proximate cause of any subsequent injury to a person.

UNIFORM CONFLICTS OF LAWS LIMITATION ACT

REPEAL

Act 310 (SB60) - The act repeals the "Uniform Conflicts of Law Limitations Act".

UNIFORM STATUTORY FORM POWER OF ATTORNEY ACT

Act 1423 (HB1292) - The act adopts the Uniform Statutory Form Power of Attorney Act.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

SOLICITATION OF FUNDS

Act 1198 (SB635) - The act regulates the solicitation of charitable funds within the State of Arkansas.

CHECK-CASHERS

REGULATION

Act 1216 (SB781) - The act provides for the licensing and regulation of persons engaged in the business of check-cashing and providing deferred presentment option services.

CONSUMER TELEPHONE PRIVACY ACT

Act 1465 (HB1564) - The act creates the Arkansas Consumer Telephone Privacy Act which establishes a statewide database of telephone numbers of residential subscribers who object to receiving telephone solicitations. The act prohibits any person from making or transmitting a telephone solicitation to the telephone number of any subscriber included in the database and provides penalties for any person who violates the act.

CREDIT CARD SOLICITATION

Act 1328 (HB1147) - The act restricts credit card solicitation on college campuses.

CREDIT CARDS

DUPLICATIVE CHARGES FOR TRANSFER OF OUTSTANDING BALANCES PROHIBITED

Act 1497 (HB2073) - The act provides that if a credit card holder transfers an outstanding balance from one credit card to another credit card, the credit card issuer from which the balance was transferred shall not collect any interest or any other fees attributable to the credit card for the amount of the outstanding balance for any period after the date of the transfer.

DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES

Act 990 (HB2160) - The act grants a cause of action to persons who suffer damages or injuries as a result of a deceptive trade practice in addition to the authority that the Attorney General has to seek injunctions and damages against the perpetrators.

HOME INSPECTORS

HOMES INSPECTOR ADVISORY BOARD

Act 1312 (HB2164) - The act creates the Homes Inspector Advisory Board which shall determine the subject content and standards which will be acceptable to meet education standards with regard to home inspection courses and develop and implement procedures for resolving complaints against or by home inspectors practicing in this state.

TELEMARKETER

UNLAWFUL PAYMENT

Act 1512 (HB2246) - The act provides that it is unlawful for a telemarketer to obtain or submit for payment a check, draft or other form of negotiable instrument drawn on a person's checking, savings, share or other depository account without the consumer's express written authorization.

TELEPHONE SOLICITATION

CALLER IDENTIFICATION

Act 1361 (HB1992) - The act prohibits telephone solicitors from blocking caller identification.

PURCHASES

Act 566 (HB1056) - No person who calls a residential phone number for the purpose of offering merchandise for sale may dispatch a courier or other individual to the residence to collect payment before the consumer has inspected the merchandise.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

WHEELCHAIR LEMON LAW

Act 953 (SB4) - The act establishes a wheelchair lemon law for the State of Arkansas.

CONTRACTORS

CPVC PIPE

AUTHORIZED

Act 819 (SB515) - The act provides that chlorinated polyvinyl chloride (CPVC) pipe and fittings may be used in the above concrete installation of potable hot and cold water distribution systems in residential structures containing no more than four living units.

DEFINITIONS

Act 1358 (HB2074) - Materials purchased by a person or entity acting as a contractor in the construction, erection, alteration, or repair of his own or its own property from a third party shall not be considered as a part of the subcontractor's project provided the subcontract is for wood framing, shingle roofing, painting, floor covering, or concrete labor.

FAILURE TO PAY GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

LIABILITY OF CUSTOMER

Act 450 (HB1178) - If a contractor fails to pay debts to a governmental entity, the customer for whom the work was performed is responsible for the debt, provided that the customer receives written notice which includes the maximum amount of the contractor's liability arising from the customer's project.

HVACR LICENSES

HEATING, VENTILATION, AIR CONDITIONER, AND REFRIGERATION

Act 465 (SB134) - The act adds licensing categories for sheet metal contractors, commercial refrigeration contractors and lifetime licenses.

OMNIBUS REVISIONS

Act 43 (HB1204) - The act amends various sections of the contractors licensing law.

RESIDENTIAL CONTRACTORS

LICENSES

Act 950 (HB1563) - The act provides for the licensing of residential contractors.

SUBCONTRACTORS

Act 1358 (HB2074) - Materials purchased by a person or entity acting as a contractor in the construction, erection, alteration, or repair of his own or its own property from a third party shall not be considered as a part of the subcontractor's project provided the subcontract is for wood framing, shingle roofing, painting, floor covering, or concrete labor.

CORRECTIONS

COMMUNITY PUNISHMENT

ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH

Act 485 (HB1036) - The act prohibits excluding any offender from participation in a community punishment program based solely on the offender's inability to speak, read, write or understand English.

CORRECTION, DEPARTMENT OF

EMPLOYEES

Act 1034 (SB156) - The act provides scholarships for surviving children of Department of Correction employees, volunteer firemen and state forestry employees, state parks employees, and public school teachers killed in the line of duty.

GOODS PRODUCED BY PRISON LABOR

Act 1375 (HB2291) - The act allows employees and retirees of the Department of Correction and members of the Board of Correction and Community Punishment to purchase goods produced using prison labor.

CORRECTIONS

EXECUTIONS

Act 78 (HB1164) - The act expands the number of persons who may be present at an execution to thirty (30).

FURLOUGHS

PERSONS CONVICTED OF FIRST DEGREE MURDER

Act 1487 (HB1997) - The act adds persons convicted of first degree murder to the list of persons ineligible for any meritorious furlough program.

IMPRISONMENT DEFINED

Act 216 (HB1308) - The act expands the definition of "imprisonment" to include incarceration in a privately operated detentional facility under contract with the state or any of its political subdivisions.

POST PRISON TRANSFER BOARD

DISCRETIONARY TRANSFER

Act 1035 (SB306) - The act determines the eligibility of persons who have committed certain felony offenses for transfer to the Department of Community Punishment by the Post Prison Transfer Board.

FULL-TIME OFFICIALS

Act 979 (HB1785) - The act converts another member of the Post Prison Transfer Board, to be designated by the Governor, to full-time status.

PRIVATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Act 380 (HB1142) - The act provides that no private correctional facilities shall be constructed without approval of the Board of Correction and Community Punishment and review and approval by the Legislative Council.

COUNTIES

BOOKS DEFINED

Act 1239 (HB2188) - In all county offices the term "book" means paper, electronic files, or information in a computer, computer system or network, or other electronic information storage and retrieval system.

COUNTY ASSESSORS

GENERAL DUTIES

Act 933 (HB1863) - The act repeals the law setting forth the general duties of the county assessor.

COUNTY CLERK

MARRIAGE LICENSE

Act 1540 (SB595) - All penalties for violations of the marriage licensing procedures shall be paid into the county general fund instead of the common school fund.

UNIFORM COST FOR VOTER REGISTRATION LISTS

Act 651 (HB1763) - The act changes the law on selling voter registration lists to prescribe a uniform price which the county clerk's office can charge for the lists and for computer disks. Printed lists will cost two cents ($.02) per name and the cost for computer disk listings will vary with the number of names requested up to maximum of $50 for listings of more than 25,000 names.

COUNTY EQUALIZATION BOARDS

MEMBERSHIP EXPANDED AND MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE QUORUM COURT

COUNTIES

COUNTY EQUALIZATION BOARDS

MEMBERSHIP EXPANDED AND MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE QUORUM COURT

Act 1326 (HB1083) - The act revises the law regarding the organization of the county equalization boards. It requires equalization board members to be one-year residents of the county. Previously, there was no time period required. Further, the act increases the minimum size of the boards from 3 members to a minimum of 5 members and gives the quorum courts the authority to appoint its own members to the equalization boards. Previously, they appointed none. It also requires monthly meetings for the equalization boards and allows a longer period of time to appeal adjustments of increased assessments.

COUNTY JAILS

PRISONERS TO PAY COST OF INCARCERATION

Act 1128 (HB1420) - Convicted inmates in county jails must pay the expense for transportation to the jail and for the inmates' support while in the county jail beginning with the day of initial incarceration.

COUNTY JUDGES' SALARY

SOLID WASTE FUND USE

Act 725 (SB608) - The act amends a current law authorizing the payment of 50% of county judges' salaries from the county road fund to now include the payment of a portion of the related matching benefits of the county judge from the county road fund and from the county solid waste fund.

COUNTY MUSEUM COMMISSION

NUMBER OF MEMBERS CHANGED

Act 1372 (HB2206) - The act authorizes the county quorum court in those counties with a county museum to specify the number of members on the county museum commission. The museum will be under the management and control of a county museum commission. The county museum commission shall consist of 3, 6, or 9 members to be appointed by the county judge, subject to confirmation and approval of the quorum court. Previously, it consisted of only 7 members. The size of the commission shall be determined by the quorum court, in collaboration with the museum director and the chairman of the commission, and with regard to the population of the county.

COUNTY PROPERTY

EXCHANGE WITH OTHER COUNTIES OR MUNICIPALITIES

Act 1248 (HB2251) - Municipalities may exchange real and personal property with other municipalities or counties.

COUNTY QUORUM COURT

PER DIEM

Act 749 (HB1772) - The act changes the authorization to pay per diem for members of the county quorum court to allow members of the quorum court to receive per diem compensation for one (1) meeting per year for which members are absent due to an emergency or personal reasons.

COUNTY SHERIFF

ALLOWS DEPUTIES TO PURCHASE FIREARMS UPON RETIREMENT

Act 451 (HB1301) - The act authorizes a deputy sheriff who retires or otherwise honorably terminates employment with the county sheriff's office to purchase the firearm issued to the officer. The sheriff can sell the firearm to the deputy at its fair market value and it shall be exempt from the Arkansas law regarding the sale of county property.

SEPARATES OFFICE OF SHERIFF AND COLLECTOR-LINCOLN COUNTY

Act 633 (HB1712) - The act separates the office of county sheriff-collector into two (2) separate offices of sheriff and tax collector in Lincoln County effective with the General Election in 2000 and taking office on January 1, 2001.

COUNTIES

COUNTY TREASURER

CREATES COUNTY TREASURER'S AUTOMATION FUND

Act 108 (HB1180) - The act creates a County Treasurers' Automation Fund. It earmarks ten percent (10%) of the county treasurers' commissions for automation (currently, a two percent (2%) commission is charged on all funds coming into their hands as treasurers). All commissions collected shall be paid into the county treasury to the County Treasurer's Commission Fund to offset administrative costs of the treasurer's office. Ten percent (10%) of the gross commissions collected annually is to be credited to the County Treasurer's Automation Fund. It is then to be used to purchase, maintain, and operate an automated accounting and record keeping system and software.

ELECTION COMMISSIONERS, COUNTY BOARD OF

TORT IMMUNITY REAFFIRMED

Act 1422 (SB942) - The act clarifies and reaffirms that the county board of election commissioners are to be considered county officials and therefore are immune from tort liability.

FISCAL AFFAIRS

COMPENSATION OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

Act 1424 (HB1387) - The act establishes the minimum and maximum salaries for elected county officials.

COUNTY ROAD FUNDS

Act 724 (SB605) - The act authorizes county road turnback funds from gasoline taxes to be used to construct and maintain sidewalks that serve county courthouses, county administration buildings, county health units, county parks, public schools, and other publicly owned property. Further, it expands the use of the funds to include installation and maintenance of traffic signals where needed.

REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES

Act 109 (HB1181) - The act amends the current law authorizing elected county officials or employees who use privately owned motor vehicles in the conduct of county affairs to be reimbursed. It adds legitimate automobile parking fees as a reimbursable expense under the county ordinance.

TURNBACK REVENUES

Act 891 (SB607) - The distribution of county turnback revenues may be based upon the most recent federal special census or the most recent federal decennial census.

UNCLAIMED REDEMPTION MONEY

Act 42 (HB1179) - Funds generated in prior years from the redemption of tax delinquent land at the county level shall be transferred by county court order to the county general fund.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS

AGREEMENTS BETWEEN ARKANSAS COUNTIES AND COUNTIES IN BORDERING STATES

Act 1483 (HB1977) - The act authorizes an Arkansas county bordering another state to enter into interlocal agreements with a contiguous county or parish in the border state for purposes of enforcing drug laws. The bordering states may deputize each other's law enforcement officials to enforce laws in each of the states. The other state's law enforcement officers shall have the same powers and immunities when working under an agreement as Arkansas law enforcement officers. Multijurisdictional enforcement groups are eligible to receive state grants to help defray the costs of operation.

COUNTIES

JAILS

PRISONERS TO PAY COST OF INCARCERATION

Act 1128 (HB1420) - Convicted inmates in county jails must pay the expense for transportation to the jail and for the inmates' support while in the county jail beginning with the day of initial incarceration.

JOINT COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY

MEMBERS' PER DIEM INCREASED

Act 472 (SB319) - The act increases the per diem for members of the sanitation authority board from $25.00 to $100.00 per meeting.

PARKING

ENFORCEMENT

Act 1247 (HB2250) - First and second class cities and incorporated towns are authorized to contract with private sector entities to enforce municipal parking ordinances and to issue citations and collect fines.

REGULATIONS

Act 1199 (SB664) - Subtitle 4 of Title 27 of the Arkansas Code pertaining to motor vehicular traffic shall not be deemed to prevent local authorities from establishing districts for the purpose of limiting the time, place and manner of public parking in designated areas.

PROPERTY TAX

ASSESSMENT

Act 974 (HB1013) - When real property is damaged by a natural disaster the assessor shall revalue the property if the damage occurred prior to the date the assessor's records are to be delivered to the county clerk regardless of whether the damage is covered by insurance.

COUNTYWIDE REAPPRAISAL

Act 1444 (HB1042) - The act provides that property shall not be reappraised for ad valorem tax purposes more than once every five (5) years except in the event of countywide reappraisal. The act provides that in the event of countywide reappraisal, property taxes shall not be assessed on the basis of reappraised value until all property has been reappraised.

DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUES

Act 787 (HB1437) - The act amends the laws relating to documentation of revenues produced by the uniform rate of ad valorem tax to increase the number of times the State Treasurer must process the documentation to certify the amount to be receipted and redistributed to each county treasurer from twice each month to no more than four times each month.

REAPPRAISAL

Act 416 (HB1051) - The act provides that prior to a reappraisal of property for ad valorem tax purposes, the county assessor or the assessor's employees or agents shall notify the property owners of the assessor's intent to reappraise. The act further provides that if the reappraisal results in an increase in the assessed value of the property, the county assessor shall note in writing on the assessment records the justification for the increase, the date the property was inspected, and the details of the inspection.

UNIFORM RATE OF ASSESSMENT

Act 1185 (SB380) - The act establishes and promotes a uniform system of real property assessments within each county of the state and among the counties by requiring each county in the State of Arkansas to appraise all market value real estate normally assessed by the county assessor at its full and fair value at a minimum of once every three (3) years.

COUNTIES

PUBLIC FACILITIES BOARDS

BOARD MEMBERS NOT RESIDENTS

Act 782 (SB676) - The act allows the mayor or the county judge to appoint initial members of the public facilities board and members are not required to be residents of the municipality or county which has created the public facilities board. Vacancies may be filled by successor members selected under alternative means by the bylaws of the public facilities board or by a city or county ordinance.

SALES AND USE TAX

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Act 1324 (SB927) - The act allows a legislative body which determines that a sales and use tax of one percent (1%) or less would, if levied for no longer than sixty (60) months, produce sufficient revenue to finance capital improvements of a public nature without resorting to a bond issue, to dispense with the issuance of bonds, levy the tax for no longer than sixty (60) months, and appropriate the resulting revenues.

DEFINITION OF SINGLE TRANSACTION

Act 1137 (SB770) - The "single transaction" definition for local taxes must be adopted prior to commencement of the collection of the tax.

LEVY OF TAX SUBJECT TO ELECTION

Act 1357 (HB2071) - The act provides that if petitions are filed requesting an election on the question of the levy of a countywide sales tax, the quorum court shall submit the question of the levying of the tax to the electors. The act provides that the petitions must be signed by no less than fifteen percent (15%) of the number of votes cast for the office of circuit clerk at the last preceding general election and that the election shall be held within one hundred twenty (120) days of the filing of the petitions.

SHERIFF AND COLLECTOR

MADISON COUNTY

Act 201 (HB1297) - The act separates the office of county sheriff-collector into two (2) separate offices of sheriff and collector in Madison County effective with the General Election in 2000 and taking office on January 1, 2001.

SUNDAY SALES OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

ELECTIONS

Act 857 (SB356) - Wet cities may adopt ordinances to refer to the voters the issue of whether or not to authorize the sale of alcoholic beverages on Sunday between the hours of 12 noon and 10:00 p.m. or within a lesser period within such hours.

TOURISM FACILITIES

Act 307 (HB1522) - The act amends the definition of "industry" under the Industrial Development Revenue Bond law (so-called Act 9 bonds) to include the issuance of industrial revenue bonds by municipalities and counties for the financing of tourism attractions and facilities. It also facilitates the issuance of industrial revenue bonds by reducing requirements for public hearings on re-financing of bond issues and enhances the security of such bonds through the pledging of surplus utility revenues in appropriate circumstances all for the purpose of securing and developing industry.

WATER AND SEWAGE SERVICE

FINANCIAL AUDIT

Act 218 (HB1398) - Any county, municipality, improvement district, or not-for-profit association or entity receiving fees from customers for providing water or sewage services must obtain an annual financial audit of the system if the system has at least 500 service connections during any fiscal year. Any county, municipality, improvement district, or not-for-profit association or entity receiving fees from customers for providing water or sewage services and having between 100 and 500 service connections during any fiscal year must obtain an annual audit or an annual report of agreed upon procedures.

COUNTIES

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

REINSURANCE

Act 583 (HB1519) - The act authorizes counties which provide worker's compensation coverage through self-funded groups to provide excess reserves through purchase of reinsurance from County Reinsurance, Limited.

COURTS

COURT COSTS

CITY FINES FOR INCARCERATION OF PRISONERS

Act 1336 (HB1640) - The act allows cities to collect an additional "fine" of up to $5.00 from each defendant to help defray the cost of incarcerating city prisoners.

LABOR DEPARTMENT EXEMPT

Act 981 (HB1867) - The act provides that the Department of Labor shall not be required to pay court costs or give bond for court costs when enforcing the state's minimum wage law.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

Act 1081 (HB1245) - The act makes numerous corrections to Code provisions dealing with costs collected by various courts.

COURT OF APPEALS

ELECTION OF ADDITIONAL JUDGES FROM EXISTING DISTRICTS

Act 889 (SB548) - The act provides for the six appointed judges of the Court of Appeals to stand election from the six (6) existing districts at the November, 2000, general election for four (4) year terms. The act further provides for the Eighty-fourth General Assembly in 2003 to determine the number and location of the Court of Appeals districts with the assistance of the Court of Appeals Apportionment Commission.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Act 1093 (HB1817) - The act provides that unpublished memoranda, working papers, and correspondence of judges of the Arkansas Court of Appeals are exempt from the Freedom of Information Act.

TIE VOTES

Act 924 (HB1806) - The act prescribes a procedure whereby cases which do not receive a unanimous decision from one division of the Court of Appeals may be resubmitted to two (2) divisions, and if a tie vote occurs, to three (3) divisions.

JURORS

COMPENSATION

Act 629 (HB1592) - The act increases the per diem fees which may be paid grand and petit jurors. For a juror who attends court and is excused, $15.00 (was $5.00), and for a juror accepted by the court, $35.00 (was $20.00).

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURTS

COPIES OF PROCEEDINGS

Act 19 (SB58) - The act repeals Arkansas Code 16-46-204 regarding copies of proceedings before justices of the peace.

MUNICIPAL COURTS

AGREEMENT BETWEEN TWO OR MORE CITIES

Act 1354 (HB2009) - The act allows two or more cities who have established a municipal court together may provide for the judge to be elected by a county-wide vote.

COUNTYWIDE ELECTION

Act 1574 (SB891) - The act mandates countywide elections for municipal judges except in counties with a population in excess of 100,000, and allows for election by townships if provided for by ordinance of a quorum court.

COURTS

MUNICIPAL COURTS

ELECTION OF JUDGE

Act 1118 (HB2082) - The act provides the judge of any municipal court located in a county with only one municipal court shall be elected countywide.

SALARIES OF THE JUDGES AND OTHER COURT PERSONNEL

Act 1470 (HB1715) - The act sets the salaries of the judges and other court personnel of the various municipal courts of this state.

RETIRED JUDGES

TEMPORARY SERVICE

Act 390 (SB158) - The act provides that retired judges appointed to temporary service will receive sufficient pay to make up the difference between their retired pay and the pay of a full-time judge in addition to expenses and mileage reimbursement.

SUBSTITUTE TRIAL COURT STAFF PERSONS

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYMENT

Act 393 (SB334) - The act authorizes the temporary employment and payment of substitute trial court staff persons.

SUPREME COURT LIBRARY

Act 960 (HB1818) - The act provides that the Supreme Court library is under the exclusive control and supervision of the Justices of the Supreme Court.

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

NEW CIRCUIT-CHANCERY JUDGESHIP

Act 1355 (HB2016) - The act creates a new circuit-chancery judgeship in the Third Judicial District effective January 1, 2000, subject to the approval of the Judicial Resources Assessment Committee.

THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

CIRCUIT JUDGESHIP

Act 5 (SB27) - The act converts one (1) circuit judgeship in the 13th Judicial District to a circuit/chancery judgeship.

CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE

ABSCONDING

ELECTRONIC MONITORING

Act 755 (HB1422) - The act expands the offense of absconding to include leaving a designated area while wearing an electronic monitoring device ordered by a sheriff or his designee.

ANHYDROUS AMMONIA

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION

Act 909 (HB1598) - The act provides that knowingly possessing anhydrous ammonia in a container which does not comply with regulations of the Boiler Inspection Division of the Arkansas Department of Labor is a Class B felony.

APPEALS FROM MUNICIPAL COURT

MULTIPLE RELATED CONVICTIONS

Act 232 (SB287) - The act allows the court clerk to combine multiple related convictions in municipal court as one case for appeal purposes to circuit court and charge only one filing fee.

BATTERY IN THE SECOND DEGREE

HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Act 389 (SB96) - The act expands the definition of second degree battery to include physicians and other health care providers while in the course of their employment related to their medical training.

CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE

BODY ARMOR POSSESSION

Act 1449 (HB1336) - The act makes it unlawful for persons convicted of certain criminal acts to possess body armor.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

DRUG PARAPHERNALIA

Act 326 (SB65) - The act prescribes the penalties for possessing or delivering drug paraphernalia when used in the course and furtherance of a felony.

DRUG TASK FORCE

Act 1267 (SB934) - The act provides for the disposition of property and contraband seized by a Drug task Force which has been disbanded.

FORFEITURE OF PROPERTY

Act 1120 (SB555) - The act revises the forfeiture procedure for property seized under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act.

GAMMA-HYDROXYBUTYRATE

Act 1534 (SB502) - The act makes gamma-hydroxybutyrate a Schedule VI drug.

METHAMPHETAMINE

Act 1268 (HB1004) - The "Arkansas Methamphetamine Lab Act of 1999" creates a rebuttable presumption concerning the manufacture of methamphetamine, makes it a Class B felony to possess with intent to manufacture methamphetamine, and requires persons convicted of manufacturing or possessing paraphernalia to manufacture methamphetamine to serve 70% of the term of imprisonment to which they are sentenced.

SEXUAL OFFENSE

Act 516 (SB155) - The act makes it a Class Y felony to introduce a controlled substance into the body of another person without their knowledge or consent for the purpose of committing a felony sexual offense.

CORONER'S INVESTIGATION

RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Act 812 (HB1941) - No person, institution or office which makes available, pursuant to Arkansas Code 14-15-302, information or material resulting from a coroner's investigation shall be liable for violating any criminal law of this state nor be held liable in tort for complying with 14-15-302.

COUNTY JAILS

PRISONERS TO PAY COST OF INCARCERATION

Act 1128 (HB1420) - Convicted inmates in county jails must pay the expense for transportation to the jail and for the inmates' support while in the county jail beginning with the day of initial incarceration.

CRIME INFORMATION CENTER, ARKANSAS

DELINQUENCY ADJUDICATION RECORDS

Act 1451 (HB1423) - The act allows the Arkansas Crime Information Center access to records of certain delinquency adjudications.

FEES

Act 1109 (HB2208) - The act authorizes the Arkansas Crime Information Center to charge service fees and system enhancement fees to governmental units in order to reimburse the center for expenditures made on behalf of the governmental units.

INFORMATION ACCESS

Act 1330 (HB1491) - The act provides that criminal history information may be made available to private contractors providing penitentiary services to a governmental criminal justice agency, pursuant to a specific agreement approved by the Arkansas Crime Information Center which limits the use of the information to the purposes for which given, to ensure the security and confidentiality of the information.

CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE

CRIME LABORATORY, STATE

RECORDS

Act 519 (SB285) - The act clarifies that a defendant and his attorney are entitled to all State Crime Laboratory records pertaining to his case, and that the State Crime Laboratory shall disclose to a defendant and his attorney all evidence pertaining to his case.

REPORTS BY PROSECUTORS

Act 767 (SB22) - The act requires all Prosecuting Attorneys to provide the State Crime Laboratory each month with a list of cases adjudicated through plea negotiations which require no further lab analysis.

TESTIMONY

Act 565 (SB239) - The act allows the testimony of State Crime Laboratory analysts in criminal trials via contemporaneously transmitted two-way closed-circuit or satellite television assuming Constitutional safeguards and absent a showing of prejudice by the defendant.

CRIME VICTIMS ADVISORY BOARD

ESTABLISHED

Act 1177 (HB2173) - The act creates the Arkansas Crime Victims Advisory Board and requires the board to submit a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Attorney General no later than December 15, 2000.

CRIME VICTIMS REPARATIONS BOARD

CLAIMANTS

Act 1102 (HB2021) - The act requires, as a condition to receive reparations, that the injurious conduct was reported to the proper authorities rather than a law enforcement officer.

ELIGIBILITY FOR COMPENSATION

Act 1502 (HB2117) - The act amends and consolidates several definitions which define eligibility for compensation from the Crime Victims Reparations Board.

INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Act 1224 (HB2022) - The act provides that information received by the Crime Victims Reparations Board through the Attorney General's Office from the Arkansas Crime Information Center shall not be available for examination except by the affected claimant or his representative.

MAXIMUM REPARATIONS

Act 1178 (HB2176) - The act increases the maximum reparations amount which may be paid by the Crime Victims Reparations Board to twenty-five thousand dollars ($25,000) for victims whose injuries are catastrophic and result in total and permanent disabilities.

DEFENDANTS ON BAIL

APPREHENSION

Act 1445 (HB1163) - The act designates licensed private investigators, certified law enforcement officers, licensed bail bond agents or persons under their direct supervision as persons authorized to apprehend a defendant on a bail bond.

DISPLAYING HUMAN SKELETAL BURIAL REMAINS

PENALTIES

Act 1533 (SB501) - The act increases the criminal penalties for "Trade or collection of remains", "Display of remains", and "Desecration of burial grounds and burial furniture".

DOMESTIC BATTERY

ADDITIONAL PENALTIES

Act 1317 (SB766) - The act increases the criminal penalties for domestic battery if the person has been previously convicted of battery, and prohibits a court from ordering residential confinement for the defendant if the residence is shared with the victim.

CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE

DOMESTIC BATTERY

ENHANCED PENALTIES

Act 1365 (HB2135) - The act enhances the penalties for subsequent convictions of domestic battery.

DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS WITHIN FOUR (4) HOURS

Act 462 (HB1567) - The act changes from two (2) to four (4) hours the time in which a chemical analysis must be done of a defendant's blood, urine, breath or other bodily substance when the defendant is charged with DWI.

IGNITION INTERLOCK RESTRICTED LICENSE

Act 1468 (HB1680) - The act allows for a reduction in the driver's license suspension period for a conviction for driving while intoxicated when the court orders issuance of a ignition interlock restricted license.

ENVIRONMENTAL AUDITS

PRIVILEGE

Act 871 (SB424) - The act repeals provisions of the environmental audit privilege law which had made those audits inadmissible in criminal actions.

EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY

LIMITATION ON APPLICATIONS

Act 498 (SB112) - The act limits persons who have been convicted of capital murder or any Class Y or A felony from reapplying for executive clemency for a period of four (4) years after their application for executive clemency is denied.

EXPUNGEMENT

SEXUAL OFFENSES

Act 1407 (HB2141) - The act provides that no person who pleads guilty, nolo contendere, or is found guilty of certain sexual offenses involving a victim under the age of 18 years of age may have their record expunged.

FALSE IDENTITY

Act 577 (HB1494) - The act expands the criminal offense of Obstructing Governmental Operations to include giving a false identity to a law enforcement officer.

FETAL PROTECTION ACT

Act 1273 (HB1329) - The act includes an unborn child in utero at any stage of development under the definition of person for criminal law purposes.

FINANCIAL IDENTITY FRAUD

Act 568 (HB1167) - The act creates the offense of financial identity fraud and sets it as a Class D felony.

PRIVACY

Act 1578 (SB912) - The act creates the criminal offense of financial identity fraud and sets it as a Class D felony. The act adds two exemptions to the "unauthorized copying or sale of recordings" law.

FIREARMS

POSSESSION BY MINORS

Act 1149 (SB364) - When a parent of a minor knows that the minor is in illegal possession of a firearm in or upon the premises of a public or private school, in or on the school's athletic stadium or other facility or building where school sponsored events are conducted, or public park, playground or civic center, and the parent or guardian fails to prevent the possession or fails to report the possession to the appropriate school or law enforcement officials, the parent shall be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE

FIREARMS

POSSESSION ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Act 1282 (HB1935) - The act prohibits possession of a firearm on school property, school buses, or at school bus stops.

FORGERY

DEFINITION OF WRITTEN INSTRUMENT

Act 1479 (HB1953) - The act expands the definition of written instrument to include retail sales receipts and universal product code labels.

INDIGENTS

REIMBURSEMENT OF ATTORNEY'S FEES

Act 231 (SB286) - The act allows the court to revisit the question of indigency when an indigent defendant is placed on probation or receives a suspended sentence, and allows the court to assess attorney's fees against the defendant if appropriate.

INTEGRATED JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEMS COORDINATING COUNCIL

CREATED

Act 848 (SB823) - The act creates the Arkansas Integrated Justice Information Systems Coordinating Council for the purpose of studying existing justice information systems and reporting to the Governor, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and the Joint Committee on Advanced Communication and Information Technology no later than March 31, 2000.

INTERFERENCE WITH VISITATION

Act 1129 (HB1459) - The act amends the crime of interference with visitation. The act adds an affirmative defense to the crime and revises the penalties for the offense.

KILLING OR INJURING ANIMALS USED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT

SEARCH AND RESCUE DOGS

Act 571 (HB1256) - The act makes it a Class D felony to kill or injure a "service animal" and requires the perpetrator to make restitution to the owner.

LASER POINTERS

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Act 1271 (HB1314) - The act makes it unlawful to shine a laser light beam on a law enforcement officer and makes it a Class A misdemeanor.

POSSESSION BY MINORS

Act 1408 (HB2192) - The act prohibits persons under the age of 18 years from possessing a hand-held laser pointer without the supervision of a parent, guardian or teacher and allows for the confiscation of the hand-held laser pointer by law enforcement officers.

SALE TO MINORS

Act 382 (HB1343) - The act prohibits the sale of hand-held laser pointers to minors and makes the offense punishable by a fine of $100.

LITTER CONTROL ACT

ENFORCEMENT BY ALL CERTIFIED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Act 386 (HB1568) - The act authorizes all certified law enforcement officers to enforce the Litter Control Act.

NONSUPPORT

PENALTIES

Act 1484 (HB1978) - The act lowers the dollar threshold of nonsupport (from $5000 to $2500) for a Class D felony, makes it a Class C felony for nonsupport of more than $10,000, but less than $25,000.

CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE

OBSTRUCTING HIGHWAYS

DEFENSES

Act 1105 (HB2055) - The act provides that it is a defense to prosecution for obstructing a highway or other public passage if the highway or public passage obstructed has not been established as a city street, county road, or state or federal highway and no civil court has established a right of passage by prescription for such highway or passage.

PATRONIZING A PROSTITUTE

INCREASED PENALTIES

Act 591 (HB1621) - The act increases the penalties for patronizing a prostitute from a Class C misdemeanor to a Class B misdemeanor. Second and subsequent offenses are Class A misdemeanors.

PHYSICAL INJURY

DEFINITION

Act 1476 (HB1879) - The act expands the definition of physical injury for the criminal code to include bruising, swelling and visible marks associated with physical trauma.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE

DEFINITION OF OFFENSE AND PENALTIES

Act 394 (HB1298) - The act creates and defines the offense of physician assisted suicide and designates it a Class C felony.

PORNOGRAPHY

Act 1263 (SB756) - The act strengthens and updates the law on pornography by updating definitions to cover new technology, such as cd-rom, magnetic disk and tape memory, etc.

POSTING AND TRESPASS

Act 1029 (HB1067) - The act amends and repeals several sections of the Code regarding "leaving open enclosure of another", "unlawful entry", "criminal trespass", and "posting".

PREPAID FUNERAL CONTRACTS

MISUSE OF FUNDS

Act 1249 (HB2270) - The act provides that any person who collects contract proceeds on cash funded prepaid funeral contracts and fails to deposit the funds with a trustee as required by law shall be guilty of a Class D felony.

PROBATION

REVOCATION HEARINGS

Act 1569 (SB873) - The act expands the authority of a court regarding the conditions of probation following a probation revocation hearing.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS

DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS

Act 1044 (SB623) - The act provides that on January 1, 2000 all deputy prosecuting attorneys shall become state employees.

Act 1300 (SB871) - The act allows any Prosecuting Attorney to appoint special deputy prosecuting attorneys employed by the Prosecutor Coordinator's office or the Attorney General's office.

REPORTS TO STATE CRIME LABORATORY

Act 767 (SB22) - The act requires all Prosecuting Attorneys to provide the State Crime Laboratory each month with a list of cases adjudicated through plea negotiations which require no further lab analysis.

CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE

PUBLIC DEFENDERS

JUVENILE OMBUDSMAN DIVISION

Act 1580 (SB915) - The act creates the Juvenile Ombudsman Division within the Public Defender Commission.

OMNIBUS REVISIONS

Act 1564 (SB845) - The act repeals and amends numerous sections of the Code regarding public defenders.

SICK LEAVE

Act 1488 (HB2003) - The act provides that former county employees of public defender offices who became employees of the Arkansas Public Defender Commission, including trial Public Defender offices, as of January 2, 1998, shall be given credit for all sick leave accumulated while under a county personnel system. Furthermore, when calculating accrual rates for sick leave and annual leave, and other benefits, those former county employees shall be given credit for the years worked in an equivalent county government position.

SCHOOLS

FALSE ADDRESS

Act 663 (HB1207) - The act provides that a person who knowingly gives a false residential address for purposes of public school enrollment is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine not to exceed $500.

FIREARMS

Act 1282 (HB1935) - The act prohibits possession of a firearm on school property, school buses, or at school bus stops.

SCHOOL BUSES

Act 1516 (SB140) - Passing a stopped school bus which is receiving or discharging passengers is a Class A misdemeanor.

SCHOOL VIOLENCE REPORTS

Act 1520 (SB259) - The act requires school principals to report all threats of violence or acts of violence on school property.

SENTENCING

CORRECTION OR REDUCTION OF SENTENCES

Act 578 (HB1507) - The act provides that the court may reduce a sentence within ninety (90) days (was 120 days) after the sentence is imposed or within sixty (60) days (was 120 days) after receipt by the court of a mandate issued upon the judgment or dismissal of the appeal being affirmed.

JUVENILE ACCOMPLICES

Act 717 (SB413) - The act allows the sentencing judge to waive the requirement that the defendant serve 70% of the term of imprisonment for certain offenses if the defendant is a juvenile and was merely an accomplice.

SUSPENSION AND FINES

Act 463 (SB59) - The act re-enacts a portion of the Arkansas Code which was inadvertantly repealed dealing with the authority of courts of record to suspend the imposition of sentences and fines and assess a civil penalty.

SUSPENSION OF SENTENCE OR PROBATION

Act 847 (SB795) - The act clarifies the term "any sentence" when referring to a court revoking a suspended sentence or probation and imposing any sentence on the defendant that might have been originally imposed. Any sentence includes the extension of a period of suspension or probation which may be revoked again.

CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE

SEX AND CHILD OFFENDER REGISTRATION

Act 1353 (HB1963) - The act amends the Sex and Child Offender Registration Act of 1997. Included in the changes is the inclusion of juveniles and the transfer of the duties to perform the assessments from local police to the Arkansas Department of Correction.

SPEEDING

LARGE TRUCKS

Act 1345 (HB1842) - The act levies an additional fine ($50.00 for each mile per hour in excess of 5 miles per hour over the posted speed limit) on the operator of a large truck.

TAMPERING WITH A PUBLIC RECORD

COURT RECORDS

Act 1104 (HB2032) - The act makes it a Class C felony to tamper with a public record if the public record is a court record, and a Class B felony if the person broke into any building with the intent of tampering with a court record.

TERM OF IMPRISONMENT

THE 70% PROVISION

Act 1337 (HB1658) - The act clarifies the application of the code provision which requires certain felons to serve 70% of the term of imprisonment, specifically as it is applied to kidnapping when its prosecuted as a Class B felony.

THEFT

THEFT OF FUEL

Act 1515 (SB68) - The act provides that for four hours after a person pumps fuel without paying for it, the person is subject to arrest without a warrant.

THEFT OF UTILITY SERVICES

Act 986 (HB2080) - The act makes theft of utility services which results in any contamination a Class B felony. The act further provides for full restitution to the utility.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS

MINORS

Act 1331 (HB1525) - The act makes it unlawful for persons under the age of eighteen years to possess, purchase, or use cigarettes or other tobacco products, and allows certified law enforcement officers and school officials to confiscate same.

VEHICULAR HOMICIDE

INCREASED PENALTY

Act 1112 (HB2194) - The act increases the penalty for vehicular homicide from a Class D to a Class C felony.

VIDEO VOYEURISM

Act 757 (HB1622) - The act creates the criminal offense of video voyeurism and designates it a Class D felony.

DECEDENTS' ESTATES

COLLECTION OF SMALL ESTATES BY DISTRIBUTEE

CLAIMS

Act 992 (HB2276) - The act reduces from six (6) months to three (3) months the time to file claims against small estates.

EVIDENCE OF DISTRIBUTION

Act 122 (SB52) - The act provides for other forms of evidence of distribution in a decedent's estate which is acceptable to the court like receipts, cancelled checks or a copy of the document transferring title to the distributee.

DECEDENTS' ESTATES

FUNERALS

SALES TAX ON PREPAID FUNERAL CONTRACTS

Act 598 (HB1667) - The act allows a person who purchases a prepaid funeral contract to pay sales tax on the items purchased in the contract on the date the contract is purchased in lieu of paying such taxes at the time of the person's death. The act provides that the tax shall be levied at the tax rate which is in effect at the time the contract is purchased. The act also provides that each prepaid funeral contract must state that any sales tax which is not paid at the date of the contract shall be due upon the death of the individual for whom the contract is purchased.

DISABLED PERSONS

DEAF PERSONS

INSTITUTION FOR THE ADVOCACY OF THE DEAF, ARKANSAS

Act 928 (HB1815) - The act creates the Arkansas Institution for Advocacy for the Deaf and the Arkansas Board for the Institution for Advocacy for the Deaf and sets out the powers and duties of the board.

INCOME TAX CREDIT

Act 417 (HB1123) - This act repeals the law providing an income tax credit for a taxpayer who maintains, supports and cares for a mentally retarded child and in lieu thereof provides a five hundred dollar ($500) income tax credit for any taxpayer in this state who maintains, supports, and cares for a dependant with a diagnosis of developmental disability. The act also amends the law providing an income tax credit for totally and permanently disabled children to repeal the physician certification requirement.

PARKING

Act 1503 (HB2142) - The act repeals that portion of the definition of a person with a disability for purposes of the Access To Parking For Persons With Disabilities Act which includes persons severely limited in their ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition and adds a definition of "access aisle." The act raises the fines for illegal parking in handicap spaces and apportions the fines between the Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities and the local municipality in which the violation occurred. The act repeals a provision allowing a private agency to restrict police entry to enforce of the act. The act requires the minimum number of parking spaces to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The act repeals a provision regarding parking spaces under the jurisdiction of a public agency.

VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS

INSTITUTION FOR ADVOCACY FOR THE BLIND, ARKANSAS

Act 853 (SB641) - The act creates the Arkansas Institution for Advocacy for the Blind and the Arkansas Board for the Institution for Advocacy for the Blind.

TECHNOLOGY ACCESS

Act 1227 (HB2044) - The act requires the state or any state-assisted organization to provide blind or visually impaired individuals with access to information technology equipment and software in use by the agency or organization. The act requires the Department of Information Systems to ensure compliance with nonvisual access standards established by the state.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

DIVORCE

CHANGE OF VENUE

Act 1491 (HB2042) - The act clarifies the process for the transfer of cases to other judicial districts for proceedings subsequent to a final decree of divorce when the parties have established a residence in another jurisdiction, or have moved from the State of Arkansas.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS

DIVORCE

FILING

Act 97 (SB111) - The act makes the thirty (30) days from date of filing time requirement apply to divorce actions filed on the grounds of willful desertion and continuous separation for eighteen (18) months.

PARENTING CLASSES

Act 704 (HB1447) - The act allows the court to order divorcing parents of minor children to attend parenting classes or mediation prior to entering a decree of divorce.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

DEFINITIONS

Act 1550 (SB765) - The act makes a spelling correction of the word "cohabited" in the definition of "family or household member".

RELIEF GENERALLY

Act 1551 (SB767) - The act expands the definition of "family or household member" to include any child residing in the household, expands the relief available to the abused party, and clarifies law officer assistance.

PROTECTION ORDERS

CONTENTS OF FORM

Act 662 (HB1736) - The act modifies the petition for order of protection form to provide language requesting the court to prohibit the respondent, directly or through an agent, from contacting the petitioner or victim except under specified conditions named in the court order.

TRANSFER OF CASES

Act 539 (SB472) - The act clarifies the process of transferring domestic relations cases for post divorce decree proceedings to another jurisdiction within the state when the parties have changed their residence with an initial presumption for a transfer to the county of residence of the custodial parent.

EARTHQUAKES

EARTHQUAKE RESISTANT DESIGN FOR PUBLIC STRUCTURES

Act 1485 (HB1982) - The act amends various sections of the Arkansas Code pertaining to earthquake resistant design for public structures.

SEISMOLOGICAL OBSERVATORY

EARTHQUAKE EDUCATION

Act 1364 (HB2120) - The act requires the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to establish the Arkansas Seismological Observatory as a part of the Arkansas Center for Earthquake Education and Technology Transfer. The observatory will establish and maintain a seismic monitoring network.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BOND GUARANTY PROGRAMS

Act 1584 (SB963) - The act provides that when an Arkansas based Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) buys at least twenty percent (20%) of the stock of an Arkansas based business entity formed under Arkansas law and the Director of the Arkansas Department of Economic Development determines that had it not been for the purchase by the ESOP that Arkansas jobs would have been lost, the Arkansas based business entity shall be qualified for any bond guaranty programs administered by the Arkansas Department of Economic Development or the Arkansas Development Finance Authority.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

COUNTY AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES AUTHORIZED

Act 37 (HB1213) - The act amends the County and Regional Industrial Development Corporation Act for creating investment entities for economic development. It authorizes a change of the title to the "County and Regional Industrial Development Company Act" and allows the entity to be formed as a limited liability company, instead of just a corporation.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1995, ARKANSAS

Act 575 (HB1468) - The act amends the Arkansas Economic Development Act of 1995 to redefine the scope of eligible businesses which may qualify for benefits under the act. The act also specifies time limitations for filing claims for tax refunds under the act and clarifies the definition of "average hourly wage" and "net new full-time permanent employee."

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE ACT OF 1993, ARKANSAS

Act 584 (HB1527) - This act amends the Arkansas Economic Development Incentive Act of 1993 to redefine the scope of eligible businesses which may qualify for benefits under the act and clarifies the definition of "net new full-time permanent employee."

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF ARKANSAS FUND COMMISSION

GAS PIPELINE

Act 235 (SB24) - The act repeals the requirement that the Economic Development of Arkansas Fund Commission allocate five million dollars per year for gas pipeline projects.

ECONOMICALLY DEPRIVED AREAS

SMALL BUSINESS LOANS

Act 448 (SB322) - The act creates a two-year pilot program which requires the Arkansas Department of Economic Development to share in the cost of incentive loans to small businesses in economically deprived areas of the state.

ENTERPRISE ZONE ACT OF 1993, ARKANSAS

Act 1130 (HB1556) - The act amends the Arkansas Enterprise Zone Act of 1993 to redefine the scope of eligible businesses which may qualify for benefits under the act. The act specifies time limitations for filing claims for sales tax refunds and clarifies the definition of "net new full-time permanent employee" and "average hourly wage."

EXISTING WORKFORCE TRAINING ACT OF 1995, ARKANSAS

Act 1134 (SB280) - The act expands the scope of the Arkansas Existing Workforce Training Act of 1995. The act adds electronic manufacturers, computer software developers, data processors and biological researchers as entities which are eligible for financial assistance under the act. The act creates an income tax credit available to eligible companies who use either state supported educational or private trainers to provide their workforce training. The act also provides that eligible companies which use state supported educational institutions to provide their training may also qualify for a direct grant to fund the training.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BONDS

TOURISM FACILITIES

Act 307 (HB1522) - The act amends the definition of "industry" under the Industrial Development Revenue Bond law (so-called Act 9 bonds) to include the issuance of industrial revenue bonds by municipalities and counties for the financing of tourism attractions and facilities. It also facilitates the issuance of industrial revenue bonds by reducing requirements for public hearings on refinancing of bond issues and enhances the security of such bonds through the pledging of surplus utility revenues in appropriate circumstances all for the purpose of securing and developing industry.

EDUCATION

BLIND SCHOOL

Act 1290 (HB2115) - The act provides that the board of trustees and the student body of the Arkansas School for the Blind shall choose a name, which may be the present name, for the institution no later than October 1, 1999.

CRAFT TRAINING EDUCATION PROGRAM

MAXIMUM SURCHARGE

Act 785 (SB817) - The act limits the craft training education program surcharge on nonresidential construction projects to a maximum of one thousand dollars per construction project.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION COMMISSION

Act 324 (HB1436) - The act requires the Arkansas Early Childhood Education Commission to report annually to the General Assembly. The act also requires the Arkansas Early Childhood Education Commission to examine recommendations of national and regional groups and systems which provide child care and early childhood services.

EDUCATIONAL IRA

INCOME TAX TREATMENT

Act 513 (SB467) - The act adopts certain provisions of the federal law for purposes of Arkansas income tax treatment of distributions from and contributions to a Roth individual retirement account and an educational individual retirement account.

GENERAL EDUCATION

ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSMENT - MODEL LEARNING STANDARDS

Act 911 (HB1643) - The act requires the Department of Education to develop model learning standards for the basic core of education knowledge and skills.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSMENT - ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE REPORT

Act 100 (SB149) - The act repeals the Arkansas Code sections creating the special program for training parents of students, the National Migrant Student Record Transfer System, the advisory committee for the publication of public school laws, the drug abuse prevention coordinators, the Effective School Project, the exemplary school and teachers recognition program, and the administrative expense reporting requirements. The act also repeals the requirement in Arkansas Code 6-20-310 that local school districts shall spend at least $1,548.59 per average daily membership for classroom teacher salaries.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSMENT - AUDIT REPORTS

Act 1244 (HB2221) - The act requires the Division of Legislative Audit to provide a copy of every audit report performed on each school district to the county clerk of the county in which the school district is located and the county clerk to keep a copy of the audit reports performed on the school district on file for at least two (2) years.

Act 1563 (SB837) - The act identifies school districts not receiving timely audits as school districts in fiscal distress and allows the Department of Education to refer questionable audits to the State Board of Public Accountancy for review.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSMENT - COMPREHENSIVE TESTING

Act 999 (SB751) - The act clarifies the purpose of the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment and Accountability Program and clarifies the testing requirements of the program.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSMENT-SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Act 769 (SB125) - The act requires the Department of Education to annually prepare individual school performance reports and to distribute the reports to all parents or guardians of children enrolled in Arkansas public schools.

EDUCATION

GENERAL EDUCATION

ACT ASSESSMENT ASSISTANCE PILOT PROGRAM ACT OF 1999

Act 1226 (HB2024) - The act creates the "Arkansas ACT Assessment Assistance Pilot Program Act of 1999". The purpose of the program is to serve as a legislative charter for the establishment, organization, and administration of a pilot program designed to improve the academic preparation of public high school students for postsecondary education throughout the state.

ADVERTISEMENTS ON SCHOOL CALENDARS

Act 1284 (HB2000) - The act requires solicitors for advertisements on school calendars to make disclosed whether or not the school whose name emblem or mascot is used will receive any funds as a result of the solicitation.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Act 1513 (HB2267) - The act establishes the after-school enrichment program to provide assistance to at-risk high school students. The act allows the Common Ground Program to establish and provide assistance to character building and other after school support programs in school districts with high percentages of at-risk high school students.

BONDS - NOTICE OF SALE

Act 1045 (SB628) - The act requires notice once a week for two (2) weeks before that date of the sale of school bonds.

BONDS - REFUNDING

Act 1046 (SB629) - The act permits school districts to issue refunding bonds without the approval of the State Board of Education.

BUS TRANSPORTING SCHOOL CHILDREN

Act 1516 (SB140) - Passing a stopped school bus which is receiving or discharging passengers is a Class A misdemeanor.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Act 890 (SB562) - The act authorizes the creation of open-enrollment charter schools and the conversion of public schools to charter schools in Arkansas.

COMPACTS FOR ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Act 1554 (SB788) - The act amends various sections of the Arkansas Code Annotated to authorize school districts to finance school facilities to share under a compact for alternative educational programs, secondary area vocational centers, and community-based education programs.

COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Act 398 (SB358) - The act allows the board of directors of each cooperative school district to appoint a representative to the cooperative's board of directors.

COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION

Act 1078 (SB571) - The act eliminates county boards of education and transfers certain powers of the county boards to other entities.

DISABILITIES, CHILDREN WITH

Act 391 (SB237) - The act makes technical corrections regarding the use of school funding terminology. The act changes the definition of "school day" to include six hours of instruction. The act changes the deadline for school districts to have a written personnel policy and written salary schedules for classified personnel. The act changes definitions of children with disabilities, the individualized education program for children with disabilities, and the membership and duties of the Advisory Council for the Education of Children with Disabilities.

EDUCATION

GENERAL EDUCATION

DISTANCE LEARNING

Act 1083 (HB1620) - The act requires that the Department of Education oversee and coordinate distance learning in elementary and secondary public schools in the state. The act requires that distance learning be available in 100 elementary and secondary public schools by August 1, 2000 and that all public schools have distance learning by August 1, 2004. The act requires the Department of Higher Education to coordinate distance learning in two year and four year colleges. The act requires the Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education to work together to implement distance learning throughout the state and report the status to the General Assembly.

DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION

Act 100 (SB149) - The act repeals the Arkansas Code sections creating the special program for training parents of students, the National Migrant Student Record Transfer System, the advisory committee for the publication of public school laws, the drug abuse prevention coordinators, the Effective School Project, the exemplary school and teachers recognition program, and the administrative expenditures reporting requirements. The act also repeals the requirement in Arkansas Code 6-20-310 that local school districts shall spend at least $1,548.59 per average daily membership for classroom teacher salaries.

EDUCATION, STATE BOARD OF

Act 478 (SB443) - The act amends testing requirement and deadlines for reports by the Department of Higher Education. The act also requires the State Board of Education, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities to meet at least once annually.

Act 885 (SB448) - The act reduces the number of members on the state board of education from twelve to nine.

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE TRUST FUND

Act 1315 (SB630) - The act changes the method of determining distribution of funds in the Educational Excellence Trust Fund and to the Work Force 2000 Development Fund.

EFFECTIVE SCHOOL PROJECT ACT

Act 100 (SB149) - The act repeals the Arkansas Code Sections creating the special program for training parents of students, the National Migrant Student Record Transfer System, the advisory committee for the publication of public school laws, the drug abuse prevention coordinators, the Effective School Project, the exemplary school and teachers recognition program, and the administrative expense reporting requirements. The act also repeals the requirement in Arkansas Code 6-20-310 that local school districts shall spend at least $1,548.59 per average daily membership for classroom teacher salaries.

ENROLLMENT IN SCHOOL

Act 570 (HB1197) - The act changes the date on which children must attain the age of five for enrollment in kindergarten from September 1 to September 15.

Act 663 (HB1207) - The act provides that a person who knowingly gives a false residential address for purposes of public school enrollment is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine not to exceed $500.

Act 947 (HB2049) - The act permits children of employees of non-resident school districts to attend school in the district where the parent is employed.

Act 1162 (SB797) - The act allows school districts to enter into agreements allowing students to transfer to another school district for summer school.

FIREARMS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

EDUCATION

GENERAL EDUCATION

FIREARMS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Act 1149 (SB364) - When a parent of a minor knows that the minor is in illegal possession of a firearm in or upon the premises of a public or private school, in or on the school's athletic stadium or other facility or building where school sponsored events are conducted, or public park, playground or civic center, and the parent or guardian fails to prevent the possession or fails to report the possession to the appropriate school or law enforcement officials, the parent shall be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

Act 1150 (SB372) - The act requires school districts to complete expulsion process for students with weapons on school property and to note the expulsion on the students' permanent record. The act requires parents to acknowledge parental responsibility for allowing students to have access to firearms or other prohibited weapons. The act also requires the Department of Education to create a registry of students expelled for possessing weapons on school property.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Act 1573 (SB889) - The act promotes instruction of foreign language in Arkansas public schools by providing grants and scholarships to encourage education and certification programs.

FUNDING - ALTERNATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Act 1299 (SB861) - The act changes the alternative learning environment reporting date to September 15 of each year. The also requires the Department of Education to distribute funds for the alternative learning environment yearly along with the state aid to the school district reporting date and to periodically monitor each school districts to ensure alternative learning environments have been established.

FUNDING OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Act 391 (SB237) - The act makes technical corrections regarding the use of school funding terminology. The act changes the definition of "school day" to include six hours of instruction. The act changes the deadline for school districts to have a written personnel policy and written salary schedules for classified personnel. The act changes definitions of children with disabilities, the individualized education program for children with disabilities, and the membership and duties of the Advisory Council for the Education of Children with Disabilities.

Act 975 (HB1296) - The act provides that when any area is declared a natural disaster area, school districts therein will not lose state equalization funding for that year or the following year.

Act 1296 (SB759) - The act authorizes the Department of Education to provide funding to school districts which have suffered significant loss of revenues.

Act 1318 (SB782) - The act amends various sections of the Arkansas Code relating to reimbursement for educational services provided in juvenile detention facilities, financing for vocational centers, school funding and the powers and duties of the State Board of Workforce Education.

HEALTH SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Act 1565 (SB856) - The act provides that individualized health care plan services for students with special health care needs shall be provided by trained school employees other than the classroom teacher.

HOME SCHOOLING

Act 1117 (HB1724) - The act changes the deadline and conditions by which parents may give notice of intent to home school their children.

INSURANCE

Act 1123 (SB836) - The act requires the Department of Education to purchase a policy of excess liability insurance for the benefit of student passengers.

EDUCATION

GENERAL EDUCATION

JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITIES

Act 1318 (SB782) - The act amends various sections of the Arkansas Code relating to reimbursement for educational services provided in juvenile detention facilities, financing for vocational centers, school funding and the powers and duties of the State Board of Workforce Education.

MIGRANT STUDENT RECORD TRANSFER SYSTEM, NATIONAL

Act 100 (SB149) - The act repeals the Arkansas Code sections creating the special program for training parents of students, the National Migrant Student Record Transfer System, the advisory committee for the publication of public school laws, the drug abuse prevention coordinators, the Effective School Project, the exemplary school and teachers recognition program, and the administrative expense reporting requirements. The act also repeals the requirement in Arkansas Code 6-20-310 that local school districts shall spend at least $1,548.59 per average daily membership for classroom teacher salaries.

PARENT'S TRAINING

Act 100 (SB149) - The act repeals the Arkansas Code sections creating the special program for training parents of students, the National Migrant Student Record Transfer System, the advisory committee for the publication of public school laws, the drug abuse prevention coordinators, the Effective School Project, the exemplary school and teachers recognition program, and the administrative expenditures reporting requirements. The act also repeals the requirement in Arkansas Code 6-20-310 that local school districts shall spend at least $1,548.59 per average daily membership for classroom teacher salaries.

PERSONNEL - WRITTEN POLICY AND SALARY SCHEDULES

Act 391 (SB237) - The act makes technical corrections regarding the use of school funding terminology. The act changes the definition of "school day" to include six hours of instruction. The act changes the deadline for school districts to have a written personnel policy and written salary schedules for classified personnel. The act changes definitions of children with disabilities, the individualized education program for children with disabilities, and the membership and duties of the Advisory Council for the Education of Children with Disabilities.

PERSONNEL - CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

Act 226 (SB113) - The act clarifies that the Department of Education will be responsible for paying for the criminal background checks of license renewal of employees of Arkansas public school districts, employees of other education institutions located in Arkansas, and employees of the Department of Education.

PERSONNEL - DISCIPLINE TRAINING

Act 1475 (HB1834) - The act provides for student discipline training and guidelines for school employees and volunteers.

PERSONNEL - EXEMPLARY TEACHERS

Act 100 (SB149) - The act repeals the Arkansas Code sections creating the special program for training parents of students, the National Migrant Student Record Transfer System, the advisory committee for the publication of public school laws, the drug abuse prevention coordinators, the Effective School Project, the exemplary school and teachers recognition program, and the administrative expense reporting requirements. The act also repeals the requirement in Arkansas Code 6-20-310 that local school districts shall spend at least $1,548.59 per average daily membership for classroom teacher salaries.

PERSONNEL - GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Act 1498 (HB2075) - The act specifies the date for a grievance procedure and the appeal process for public school employees.

EDUCATION

GENERAL EDUCATION

PERSONNEL - LEAVE CREDIT

Act 774 (SB375) - The act allows all school employees to carry their accumulated leave credit to another school district, state education agency, educational cooperative, or two year college.

PERSONNEL - LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR PERSONAL INJURY

Act 1494 (HB2064) - The act amends the leave of absence for personal injury of teachers injured while intervening in student fights.

PERSONNEL - LICENSURE VIOLATIONS

Act 1161 (SB779) - The act requires superintendents to report licensure violations of teachers.

PERSONNEL - NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS

Act 58 (SB261) - The act provides that the Department of Education will pay a $2000 incentive bonus to teachers who successfully complete the national board certification process and will pay a $2000 bonus for life of the certification.

PERSONNEL - NONCERTIFIED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

Act 1314 (SB531) - The act allows 25 days for noncertified public school employees to request a hearing to appeal suspension, termination or non-renewal.

PERSONNEL - SALARY FOR CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

Act 1542 (SB649) - The act requires each school district to file its written salary schedule for classified personnel with the Department of Education by September 15 of each year.

PERSONNEL - SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CHILDREN OF TEACHERS KILLED ON DUTY

Act 1034 (SB156) - The act provides scholarships for surviving children of Department of Correction employees, volunteer firemen and state forestry employees, state parks employees, and public school teachers killed in the line of duty.

PERSONNEL - SCHOOL WORKER DEFENSE PROGRAM

Act 540 (SB482) - The act authorizes and directs the Department of Education to establish a School Worker Defense Program Advisory Board. The act also decreases the per incident coverage of protection for various educational entities and personnel against liability for acts or omissions in the performance of their duties.

PERSONNEL - SICK LEAVE

Act 40 (HB1148) - The act allows certified school employees who are husband and wife to share accumulated sick leave and allows school districts to establish sick leave pools or banks for classified employees.

PERSONNEL - TEACHER FAIR DISMISSAL ACT

Act 852 (SB517) - The act modifies the notice and hearing requirements under the Teacher Fair Dismissal Act.

Act 1581 (SB932) - The act amends the section of the Teacher Fair Dismissal Act pertaining to non-renewal hearings.

PERSONNEL - TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS IN GRADE LEVEL

Act 1382 (SB574) - The requires teachers to be licensed in the grade level or subject they teach and requires substitute teachers assigned to a class for more than 30 consecutive days to have a bachelor's degree.

PERSONNEL - TEACHER'S AUTHORITY TO REMOVE A CHILD FROM CLASS

Act 1281 (HB1880) - The act sets forth the procedures by which a teacher may remove a disruptive student from class.

PERSONNEL - TEACHER'S SALARIES

Act 1499 (HB2076) - The act increases the base salary for teachers with a bachelor's degree.

EDUCATION

GENERAL EDUCATION

PERSONNEL - TEACHERS SALARIES

Act 100 (SB149) - The act repeals the Arkansas Code sections creating the special program for training parents of students, the National Migrant Student Record Transfer System, the advisory committee for the publication of public school laws, the drug abuse prevention coordinators, the Effective School Project, the exemplary school and teachers recognition program, and the administrative expense reporting requirements. The act also repeals the requirement in Arkansas Code 6-20-310 that local school districts shall spend at least $1,548.59 per average daily membership for classroom teacher salaries.

PETTY CASH FUND

Act 47 (HB1275) - The act allows each school within a district to maintain a petty cash fund.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Act 1531 (SB468) - The act authorizes Arkansas school districts to give, convey, and donate real property to institutions of higher education when used only for educational purposes.

PUBLIC EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY BOARD

Act 98 (SB130) - The act creates a public education technology advisory council to replace the Public School System Computer Network Advisory Council.

PUBLICATION OF SCHOOL LAWS

Act 100 (SB149) - The act repeals the Arkansas Code sections creating the special program for training parents of students, the National Migrant Student Record Transfer System, the advisory committee for the publication of public school laws, the drug abuse prevention coordinators, the Effective School Project, the exemplary school and teachers recognition program, and the administrative expense reporting requirements. The act also repeals the requirement in Arkansas Code 6-20-310 that local school districts shall spend at least $1,548.59 per average daily membership for classroom teacher salaries.

PYGMALION COMMISSION, ARKANSAS

Act 1481 (HB1966) - The act extends the expiration date of the Arkansas Pygmalion Commission and reduces the number of members to sixteen.

REGISTRY - EXPELLED STUDENTS

Act 1150 (SB372) - The act requires school districts to complete expulsion process for students with weapons on school property and to note the expulsion on the student's permanent record. The act requires parents to acknowledge parental responsibility for allowing students to have access to firearms or other prohibited weapons. The act also requires the Department of Education to create a registry of students expelled for possessing weapons on school property.

REMEDIATION

Act 855 (HB1212) - The act requires students in kindergarten through grade three (K-3) not performing at grade level to participate in a remediation program or summer school and requires schools to offer remediation programs during the school year or summer school.

REPORT THREATS AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Act 1520 (SB259) - The act requires school principals to report all threats of violence or acts of violence on school property.

SCHOOL BOARD - FINANCE DISCLOSURE

Act 1172 (HB1675) - The act requires all persons who are elected members of a school board or who are candidates for a position on a school board to file a finance disclosure statement. The act also requires a finance disclosure statement to be filed by any person appointed to one of the following types of regional, municipal, or county boards or commissions: a planning board or commission; an airport board or commission; a water or sewer board or commission; a utility board or commission; or a civil service commission.

EDUCATION

GENERAL EDUCATION

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Act 898 (HB1144) - The act requires school board members to reside in the school district from which elected while serving on the school board.

Act 1390 (HB1277) - The act to repeals Arkansas Code 6-13-616(c) relating to qualifications of school board members who residential property contains portions of two school districts.

SPORTS, PARTICIPATION IN AFTER TRANSFER

Act 1241 (HB2200) - The act repeals the requirement that a student who transfers to a nonresident district in grades nine through twelve (9-12) shall not be eligible for interscholastic athletic competition for a period of one (1) year from the date of the beginning of the transfer.

SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Act 858 (HB1212) - The act requires students in kindergarten through grade three (K-3) not performing at grade level during the regular school year shall participate in a Department of Education approved remediation program or a summer school remediation program to be eligible for promotion to the next grade. The act also requires that those schools electing to not offer a summer school program shall offer a Department of Education approved remediation program during the regular school year to students in kindergarten through grade three (K-3) not performing at grade level.

TECHNOLOGY

Act 148 (HB1276) - The act consolidates the educational technology functions to be within the Department of Education.

TOBACCO USE ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Act 1555 (SB790) - The act requires that a copy of the statute prohibiting smoking or use of tobacco or tobacco products on school property be posted in a conspicuous place at every entrance of each school building owned or leased by a school district and on school buses.

TRANSPORTATION

Act 373 (SB348) - The act increases the amount of transportation aid provided to school districts contingent upon funding being increased to $9,200,000 or more.

Act 1123 (SB836) - The act requires the Department of Education to purchase a policy of excess liability insurance for the benefit of student passengers.

TRUANCY BOARDS

Act 1579 (SB913) - The act allows local school district boards of directors to create community truancy boards.

UNIFORMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Act 1301 (SB2) - The act requires local school districts to form advisory committees to review uniform dress codes and make a recommendation to the local school board regarding adoption of a uniform dress code for the school district. The act also provides procedures by which to have the issue of uniform dress codes referred to the qualified electors of the district.

HIGHER EDUCATION

ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSMENT - ACADEMIC POSITIONS REPORT

Act 476 (SB441) - The act repeals the requirement to report salaries and positions of employees in academic positions at state supported institutions of higher education.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSMENT - CURRENT FUNDS' REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES REPORT

Act 523 (SB449) - The act requires the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to provide a biennial report of all current funds' revenues and expenditures for each academic department at each state-supported institution of higher education.

EDUCATION

HIGHER EDUCATION

ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSMENT - FACULTY PERFORMANCE REVIEW REPORT

Act 477 (SB442) - The act combines the faculty performance review requirements in various sections of the code.

Act 1360 (HB2099) - The act amends the faculty performance review requirements.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSMENT - MINORITY TEACHER RECRUITMENT REPORT

Act 905 (HB1466) - The act requires all state supported colleges and universities to report to the Department of Education each semester the name, address, and major of each minority student completing college or university requirements for recommendation for licensure as a public school teacher in this state. The act also requires the Department of Education to maintain a database of the information provided in the reports which shall be available to public school superintendents in the state.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSMENT - TESTING AND REPORTS

Act 478 (SB443) - The act amends testing requirement and deadlines for reports by the Department of Higher Education. The act also requires the State Board of Education, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities to meet at least once annually.

ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Act 479 (SB444) - The act repeals various sections of the code pertaining to the office of accountability and authorizes the office of accountability to collect and analyze information required to meet state or federal requirements.

ADMISSION TO INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION UNCONDITIONALLY

Act 520 (SB359) - The act extends the date by which students are required to complete the core curriculum with a minimum grade point average of 2.0 to qualify for unconditional admission to a public institution for higher education.

BOARDS OF TRUSTEES

Act 823 (SB599) - The act clarifies that the boards of trustees of state supported colleges and universities have the authority to transfer title and to lease property belonging to the institutions.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Act 470 (SB258) - The act requires members of the board of directors of a community college be elected at the general election or at the annual school election, if the community college district is composed solely of one (1) or more entire school districts, other than any portion of the school district that is in another county, and whose boundary is contiguous with that portion of the school district that is located in the county in which the community college is located.

Act 771 (SB257) - The act establishes rules regarding the reapportionment of positions on the local board of a community college.

Act 818 (SB511) - The act provides that county sales and use taxes may be dedicated to be used for capital improvements or maintenance and operation of community colleges.

Act 1107 (HB2163) - The act clarifies that the local boards shall determine the minimum student tuition and fees charged by the institution.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

Act 1124 (SB893) - The act clarifies the responsibility for the regulation of correspondence courses.

CREDIT CARD SOLICITATION

Act 1328 (HB1147) - The act restricts credit card solicitation on college campuses.

EDUCATION

HIGHER EDUCATION

DISTANCE LEARNING

Act 1083 (HB1620) - The act requires that the Department of Education oversee and coordinate distance learning in elementary and secondary public schools in the state. The act requires that distance learning be available in 100 elementary and secondary public schools by August 1, 2000 and that all public schools have distance learning by August 1, 2004. The act requires the Department of Higher Education to coordinate distance learning in two year and four year colleges. The act requires the Department of Education and the Department of Higher Education to work together to implement distance learning throughout the state and report the status to the General Assembly.

EARTHQUAKE EDUCATION

Act 1364 (HB2120) - The act requires the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to establish the Arkansas Seismological Observatory as a part of the Arkansas Center for Earthquake Education and Technology Transfer. The observatory will establish and maintain a seismic monitoring network.

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE TRUST FUND

Act 1315 (SB630) - The act changes the method of determining distribution of funds in the Educational Excellence Trust Fund and to the Work Force 2000 Development Fund.

HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD, ARKANSAS

Act 478 (SB443) - The act amends testing requirement and deadlines for reports by the Department of Higher Education. The act also requires the State Board of Education, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities to meet at least once annually.

Act 1352 (HB1959) - The act amends the composition of the Higher Education Coordinating Board.

HIGHER EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Act 1218 (SB834) - The act moves administration of the health education grant program from the Arkansas Student Loan Authority to the Department of Higher Education

INFORMATION SCIENCE AND SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

Act 1447 (HB1290) - The act creates a College of Information Science and Systems Engineering at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

LANGUAGE

Act 1269 (HB1017) - The act allows American sign language to qualify as a foreign language for general elective credit.

MINORITY RETENTION PROGRAMS

Act 1091 (HB1805) - The act requires state-supported colleges and universities to establish programs to enhance the retention of minority students, faculty, and staff. The act also requires the colleges and universities to annually prepare progress reports and submit a five-year plan to the Department of Higher Education.

NATIONAL GUARD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Act 1139 (SB793) - The act abolishes the Arkansas National Guard Scholarship Program.

NON-BACCALAUREATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, TASK FORCE ON

Act 1160 (SB778) - The act creates the Task Force on Non-baccalaureate Postsecondary Education. The act also requires the task force to submit a report for any proposed legislation to the Governor and the General Assembly prior to March 1, 2000.

NURSING PRACTICE STUDENT LOAN AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Act 1311 (HB1975) - The act allows nurse educators to participate in the in the Rural Advanced Nursing Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Program and the Advanced Nursing Practice Community Match Student Loan Program.

EDUCATION

HIGHER EDUCATION

PERSONNEL - CHANCELLOR HOUSING

Act 240 (SB84) - The act allows each state funded four-year university to approve a housing allowance not exceeding $800 per month for the presidents and chancellors. The act also allows the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees to approve a housing allowance not exceeding $400 per month for the chancellor of the various two-year branch campuses.

PERSONNEL - DISASTER VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Act 383 (HB1349) - The act allows employees of state-supported institutions of higher education to participate in disaster volunteer services under the disaster volunteer act.

PERSONNEL - EXCEPTIONALLY QUALIFIED ACADEMIC AND NONACADEMIC PERSONNEL

Act 998 (SB567) - The act clarifies the authority of boards of trustees to authorize payments in excess of the maximum provided by law to attract and retain exceptionally qualified academic and nonacademic employees.

PERSONNEL - POOL FOR UNDERALLOCATION NEEDS

Act 323 (SB461) - The act requires that the Department of Higher Education maintain a pool of 100 nonclassified positions and the Department of Finance and Administration's Office of Personnel Management shall maintain a pool of 100 classified positions during the 1999-2001 school biennium. The position may be used by two-year institutions of higher education in the event the personal services needs of the institutions exceed the number of positions allocated to the two year institutions.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Act 1531 (SB468) - The act authorizes Arkansas school districts to give, convey, and donate real property to institutions of higher education when used only for educational purposes..

PUBLIC HEALTH MASTER DEGREE

Act 193 (HB1251) - The act allows the Department of Health to provide assistance to employees seeking a master's degree in public health.

REMEDIATION

Act 375 (SB373) - The act provides that noncredit remedial courses of instruction taken by a student at a state supported institution of higher education in this state to qualify for unconditional admission to the institution or another state supported institution of higher education in this state may be included within the meaning of public school purposes.

Act 508 (SB450) - The act requires the Department of Higher Education and the Department of Education to work together to develop a compatible system of reporting remediation rates and requires the Department of Higher Education to develop a system to calculate the total amount of state funds spent on remediation of first time entering freshmen students.

RESEARCH

Act 1545 (SB666) - The act creates the Arkansas Research Matching Fund to be administered by the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority and prescribes basic guidelines on how the fund should be used.

SCHOLARSHIPS - ACADEMIC CHALLENGE

Act 858 (HB1411) - The act modifies the eligibility requirements for the academic challenge scholarship program to increase the average family adjusted gross income levels for the financial need calculation.

SCHOLARSHIPS - CHILDREN OF CERTAIN DECEASED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Act 56 (SB62) - The act provides for scholarships for the surviving children of volunteer firemen and state forestry employees killed while fighting fires. It entitles the children and spouse to an eight-semester scholarship at any state-supported college or university. Previously, the law applied to just law enforcement officer, full-time fireman or state highway employees who were killed or permanently and totally disabled.

EDUCATION

HIGHER EDUCATION

SCHOLARSHIPS - CHILDREN OF CERTAIN DECEASED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Act 1034 (SB156) - The act provides scholarships for surviving children of Department of Correction employees, volunteer firemen and state forestry employees, state parks employees, and public school teachers killed in the line of duty.

SCHOLARSHIPS - CHILDREN OF DISEASED OR DISABLED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Act 630 (HB1651) - The act allows certain children of deceased or disabled law enforcement officers to receive scholarship benefits.

SCHOLARSHIPS - DISTINGUISHED GOVERNOR'S SCHOLARS

Act 1562 (SB835) - The act amends the eligibility requirements for the Distinguished Governor's Scholars Scholarship Program.

SEISMOLOGICAL OBSERVATORY

Act 1364 (HB2120) - The act requires the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to establish the Arkansas Seismological Observatory as a part of the Arkansas Center for Earthquake Education and Technology Transfer. The observatory will establish and maintain a seismic monitoring network.

TAX-DEFERRED TUITION SAVINGS PROGRAM, ARKANSAS

Act 996 (SB532) - The act establishes the Arkansas Tax-Deferred Tuition Savings Program. The program provides income tax incentives for individuals who invest funds to provide for the higher education expenses of a designated beneficiary. The program is to be administered by the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System.

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT BY EMPLOYER

Act 1036 (SB363) - The act establishes an income tax credit to certain employers in an amount equal to 30% of the cost of tuition reimbursed by an employer to a full-time permanent employee for the cost of tuition, books and fees for a program of undergraduate or post-graduate education from an accredited institution of post-secondary education located in Arkansas.

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION REFORM, JOINT INTERIM

Act 1163 (SB826) - The act renames the Joint Interim Oversight Committee on Higher Education Reform as the Joint Interim Oversight Committee on Education Reform and expands its jurisdiction to include all levels of education.

CREATED

Act 1163 (SB826) - The act renames the Joint Interim Oversight Committee on Higher Education Reform as the Joint Interim Oversight Committee on Education Reform and expands its jurisdiction to include all levels of education.

WORKFORCE EDUCATION

ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSMENT

Act 1158 (SB757) - The act requires all post-secondary vocational-technical schools, technical institutes, and comprehensive lifelong learning centers use performance based accountability systems and report to the State Board of Education and Career Opportunities.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY CRAFT TRAINING EDUCATION PROGRAM

Act 474 (SB368) - The act creates a construction industry craft training education program in vocational schools, technical schools and colleges. The act also imposes a construction permit surcharge to fund the construction industry craft training program.

DISTANCE LEARNING

Act 1297 (SB780) - The act requires coordination of all technological aspects of distance learning activities.

Act 1298 (SB832) - The act creates the Arkansas Interagency Distance Learning Review Commission for the planning and implementation of distance learning in the state.

EDUCATION

WORKFORCE EDUCATION

TECHNICAL CAREERS STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM

Act 652 (HB1767) - The act establishes the Arkansas Technical Careers Student Loan Forgiveness Program which provides repayment of loans for students admitted to high demand technical training programs who work in the high demand technical occupation in Arkansas.

VOCATIONAL CENTERS

Act 1318 (SB782) - The act amends various sections of the Arkansas Code relating to reimbursement for educational services provided in juvenile detention facilities, financing for vocational centers, school funding and the powers and duties of the State Board of Workforce Education.

VOCATIONAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Act 1159 (SB776) - The act allows the Department of Workforce Education to reimburse secondary vocational centers and other public schools for expenses related to participation in vocational student organizations.

VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER

Act 21 (SB88) - The act removes the requirement that a model resource center be located within Northeast Arkansas Educational Services Cooperative service area.

WORK FORCE 2000 DEVELOPMENT FUND

Act 1315 (SB630) - The act changes the method of determining distribution of funds in the Educational Excellence Trust Fund and to the Work Force 2000 Development Fund.

WORKFORCE AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES, STATE BOARD OF

Act 478 (SB443) - The act amends testing requirement and deadlines for reports by the Department of Higher Education. The act also requires the State Board of Education, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities to meet at least once annually.

WORKFORCE EDUCATION ACT OF 1997

Act 1134 (SB280) - The act expands the scope of the Arkansas Existing Workforce Training Act of 1995. The act adds electronic manufacturers, computer software developers, data processors and biological researchers as entities which are eligible for financial assistance under the act. The act creates an income tax credit available to eligible companies who use either state supported educational or private trainers to provide their workforce training. The act also provides that eligible companies which use state supported educational institutions to provide their training may also qualify for a direct grant to fund the training.

WORKFORCE EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Act 1323 (SB908) - The act creates a new chapter in the Arkansas Code which contains statutes pertaining to the Department of Workforce Education.

ELECTION LAWS

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

APPLICATIONS

Act 918 (HB1710) - The act amends various provisions of the election laws pertaining to the application form for absentee ballots. Specifically the act provides that the county clerk shall not deliver absentee ballots to any person other than the absentee voter unless the person picking up the ballots provides satisfactory photo identification to the county clerk that he or she is the person authorized by the absentee voter to pick up the ballots. The act also provides that the county clerk shall require the person picking up absentee ballots for another person to sign a register under oath to be maintained by the county clerk. Furthermore, under the act the county clerk is prohibited from providing more than five absentee ballots per election to any designated bearer and from accepting delivery of more than five absentee ballots per election from any designated bearer.

ELECTION LAWS

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

APPLICATIONS

Act 1111 (HB2260) - The act provides that applications for absentee ballots must be signed by the applicant and verified by the county clerk by checking the voter's name, address, date of birth and signature from the registration records or, if sent by facsimile machine transmitted over telephone lines, must bear a verifiable facsimile of the applicant's signature.

COUNTING

Act 1368 (HB2168) - The act provides that in counting absentee ballots, after the election official reads aloud from the statement, the election officials shall compare name, address, date of birth, and signature of the voter's absentee application and voter's statement. If the application and the voter statement does not compare as to name, address, date of birth and signature, the application, absentee ballot envelope and statement shall be placed in an envelope marked 'challenged.' The election official shall record the reason for the challenge on the envelope and it shall be referred to the County Board of Election Commissioners. The County Board of Election Commissioners shall determine if the voter is qualified and whether or not the vote shall be counted.

DEADLINES

Act 491 (HB1591) - The act establishes that for qualified electors outside the United States, the absentee ballot shall be signed, dated, postmarked, and mailed by the voters no later than the day of the election and received by the county clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. ten (10) calendar days after the date of the election.

DEFINITIONS

Act 1342 (HB1827) - The act provides for new definitions. Administrator means the administrative head of a long-term care or residential care facility licensed by the state who is authorized, in writing, by a patient of the long-term care or residential care facility to deliver the application for an absentee ballot and to obtain or deliver the absentee ballot to the county clerk. Authorized agent means a person who is identified and authorized by an applicant who is medically unable to cast a ballot at a polling site due to unforeseen medical necessity as set forth in an affidavit from the administrative head of a hospital or long-term or residential care facility to deliver the application, to obtain a ballot and deliver the ballot on the day of the election to the county clerk. Designated bearer means any person who is identified and authorized by the applicant to obtain from the county clerk or deliver to the county clerk the applicant's ballot.

LIMIT ON NUMBER OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Act 1538 (SB552) - The act provides that the county clerk shall not deliver in person, or by any other means of transmittal, more than five absentee ballots per election to the individual authorized to receive the absentee ballots unless there are more than five persons lawfully registered at the same address as the individual obtaining the absentee ballots or there are more than five persons lawfully registered at the address for which the designated bearer or authorized agent is obtaining the absentee ballots. The act also provides that a designated bearer shall only be allowed to pick up five absentee ballots from the county clerk per election and shall only be allowed to do so during the fifteen days prior to a preferential or general election and seven days prior to a general primary election

MATERIALS FURNISHED TO ABSENTEE VOTER

Act 1243 (HB2216) - The act requires the printed name of voter, the address of voter, the date of birth of voter, the signature of designated bearer, relative or authorized agent, and the address of designated bearer, relative or authorized agent on the absentee ballot in addition to the information currently required.

ELECTION LAWS

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

MATERIALS FURNISHED TO ABSENTEE VOTER

Act 1344 (HB1838) - The act provides that the county clerk shall verify that the application for an absentee ballot has been properly signed by the applicant and if necessary the designated bearer, relative or authorized agent. If the application is not properly signed, the application shall be rejected by the county clerk. The county clerk shall notify the applicant of the reason for the rejection. If the county clerk is unable to contact the applicant to cure the deficiency, the county clerk shall forward the application with the reason for the rejection to the County Board of Election Commissioners. The County Board of Election Commissioners shall determine whether the applicant is a qualified elector.

METHOD OF VOTING

Act 1586 (HB2166) - The act provides that if an absentee voter votes by mail, the voter shall personally mail his ballot except that an administrator may mail the absentee ballot of long term care or residential care facilities' residents in a single mailing. A qualified elector who is physically disabled may have another person mail the absentee ballot in a single mailing to the county clerk. If the ballot is not personally mailed by the voter casting the ballot, the ballot may be challenged.

ALDERMAN

PETITION OF NOMINATION

Act 752 (HB1334) - The petition for nomination for at-large candidates for alderman of a ward in cities of the first and second class may be signed by any qualified elector of the city.

BALLOT

NICKNAMES

Act 1335 (HB1576) - The act clarifies the use of a nickname on a ballot. Specifically, the act provides that a nickname shall not include professional or honorary titles. The names and titles proposed to be used by each candidate shall be reviewed within twenty days of the filing deadline by the State Board of Election Commissioners for state offices and by the County Board of Election Commissioners for county, township, school, and municipal offices. The act further provides that no candidate shall be permitted to change the form in which his name will be printed on the ballot after the deadline for filing the political practice pledge.

CAMPAIGN FINANCES

UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES

Act 103 (HB1030) - The act provides that an unopposed candidate for an office other than school district, township, municipal or county office or any person acting in the unopposed candidate's behalf shall not be required to file the ten (10) day preelection report required by Arkansas Code 7-6-207(a).

CERTIFIED LISTS OF NOMINATION

Act 656 (HB1777) - The act requires that certified lists of nomination rather than certificates of nomination of candidates running for office be filed with the Secretary of State.

COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

UNIFORM COSTS FOR VOTER REGISTRATION LISTS

Act 651 (HB1763) - The act changes the law on selling voter registration lists to prescribe a uniform price which the county clerk's office can charge for the lists and for computer disks. Printed lists will cost 2 cents per name and the cost for computer disk listings will vary with the number of names requested up to maximum of $50.00 for listings of more than 25,000 names.

ELECTION LAWS

DEADLINES

CERTIFICATION, NOTICE AND APPOINTMENTS

Act 1490 (HB2019) - The act clarifies language pertaining to deadlines for the certification of the candidate list and clarifies the date on which the election officials shall be appointed. The act also clarifies the elections for which the County Board of Election Commissioners shall provide notice of a proposed amendment to the Arkansas Constitution and clarifies the time for school district election notices.

DAYS

Act 653 (HB1774) - The act provides that if an election law deadline occurs on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the deadline shall be the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

Act 654 (HB1775) - The act amends Amendment 51, Section 9 of the Arkansas Constitution by providing that if an election law deadline occurs on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the deadline shall be the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

DISABLED VOTERS

Act 643 (HB1779) - The act eliminates the requirements that the county committees of the respective political parties provide voting locations which are accessible to disabled voters and provide reasonable and adequate methods whereby disabled voters may personally and secretly execute their ballots at the polling places.

ELECTION COMMISSIONERS, COUNTY BOARD OF

COMPENSATION

Act 1304 (HB1758) - The act provides that the County Board of Election Commissioners shall not receive compensation for election duties after the election until the election results have been certified and delivered to the Secretary of State.

ELECTION COMMISSIONERS, STATE BOARD OF

DUTIES

Act 997 (SB554) - The act permits the State Board of Election Commissioners to appoint certified election monitors to any county upon a signed, written complaint under oath filed with the State Board of Election Commissioners and a determination by the State Board of Election Commissioners that appointing a monitor is necessary. The State Board of Election Commissioners may also assist in the performance of the administrative duties of the election process if the County Board of Election Commissioners fails to perform its duties. Furthermore, the act provides the State Board of Election Commissioners the authority to sanction persons who violate the election laws.

ELECTION OFFICIALS

TORT IMMUNITY FOR COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSIONS REAFFIRMED

Act 1422 (SB942) - The act clarifies and reaffirms that the county board of election commissioners are to be considered county officials and therefore are immune from tort liability.

ELECTION SUPPLIES

Act 920 (HB1794) - The act requires that in those counties in which an optical scanner is used to count paper ballots, the marking instrument recommended by the manufacturer of the optical scanner for proper marking on the ballots shall be provided by the County Board of Election Commissioners. The act also requires the County Board of Election Commissioners to require that at general, primary, special, and school elections in counties which use paper ballots and the ballots are counted by hand, the ballots shall be marked using permanent ink.

ELECTION LAWS

FINANCE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Act 1172 (HB1675) - The act requires all persons who are elected members of a school board or who are candidates for a position on a school board to file a finance disclosure statement. The act also requires a finance disclosure statement to be filed by any person appointed to one of the following types of regional, municipal, or county boards or commissions: a planning board or commission; an airport board or commission; a water or sewer board or commission; a utility board or commission; or a civil service commission.

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

FILING DEADLINE

Act 77 (HB1160) - The act requires independent candidates to file a notice of candidacy identifying the elective office and file a nominating petition no later than the date fixed by law as the deadline for filing political practice pledges and party pledges if any are required by the rules of the party to qualify as a candidate of a political party in a primary election.

INITIATIVE PETITIONS

SUFFICIENCY OF INITIATIVE PETITIONS

Act 877 (SB702) - The act concerns the review of the legal sufficiency of initiative petitions. It provides that there is an immediate right to petition the Arkansas Supreme Court to review the determination of the secretary of state regarding the sufficiency of an initiative petition.

POLLING SITES

CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES

Act 1525 (SB353) - The act revises the restrictions on campaign activities near polling places. Specifically, the law establishes that electioneering cannot take place within one hundred feet of the primary exterior entrance used by voters to the building containing the polling place on election day or during the early voting period.

CHANGE OF SITE

Act 455 (HB1403) - The act requires that except for school elections and special elections, the notice of a change in polling sites shall be mailed by the county clerk to each affected registered voter at least fifteen days before the election.

RECOUNTS

Act 1023 (SB553) - The act provides that any candidate voted for who may be dissatisfied with the returns from any precinct shall have a recount of the votes cast therein upon the candidate presenting the county board of election commissioners with a petition requesting the recount. The county board of election commissioners shall wait at least forty-eight hours after the close of the elections to certify the results. However, only one recount per candidate per election shall be permitted. The act also provides that the County Board of Election Commissioners may upon its own motion conduct a recount of the returns from any or all precincts.

RUNOFF ELECTIONS

Act 554 (SB355) - The act provides that in the event two candidates receive the highest number of votes and receive the same number of votes in a primary election, a tie shall be deemed to exist and the names of the two candidates shall be placed on the ballot to be voted upon by the qualified electors of the county or the municipality, as the case may be. If there is one candidate which receives the highest number of votes, but not a majority of the votes and two other candidates receive the same number of votes for the next highest number of votes cast, a tie shall be deemed to exist between the two candidates. The County Board of Election Commissioners, at a public meeting and in the presence of the two candidates shall determine the runoff candidate by lot. The act also provides that if the two candidates receive the same number of votes in the runoff election, a tie is deemed to exist and the County Board of Election Commissioners shall determine the winner by lot.

ELECTION LAWS

RUNOFF ELECTIONS

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Act 649 (HB1756) - The act provides that County Board of Election Commissioners shall deliver absentee ballots for runoff elections to the county clerk no later than fifteen days before the election.

COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

Act 554 (SB355) - The act provides that in the event two candidates receive the highest number of votes and receive the same number of votes in a primary election, a tie shall be deemed to exist and the names of the two candidates shall be placed on the ballot to be voted upon by the qualified electors of the county or the municipality, as the case may be. If there is one candidate which receives the highest number of votes, but not a majority of the votes and two other candidates receive the same number of votes for the next highest number of votes cast, a tie shall be deemed to exist between the two candidates. The County Board of Election Commissioners, at a public meeting and in the presence of the two candidates shall determine the runoff candidate by lot. The act also provides that if the two candidates receive the same number of votes in the runoff election, a tie is deemed to exist and the County Board of Election Commissioners shall determine the winner by lot.

SCHOOLS

BALLOT ISSUES

Act 1196 (SB606) - The act prohibits placing of school election issues on the November general election ballot

BOARD MEMBERS

Act 898 (HB1144) - The act requires school board members to reside in the school district from which elected while serving on the school board.

Act 1390 (HB1277) - The act to repeals Arkansas Code 6-13-616(c) relating to qualifications of school board members who residential property contains portions of two school districts.

VIOLATIONS

FELONIES

Act 655 (HB1776) - The act provides that no public official or person shall in any manner willfully or corruptly permit any person not entitled to register for the purpose of voting to do so; or forge a registration or attempt to do so and any violation is deemed a felony.

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

IDENTIFICATION OF QUALIFIED VOTERS

Act 1454 (HB1479) - The act provides that before a person is permitted to vote, the election official shall request that the voter, in the presence of the election official, confirm his date of birth. The election official shall also request that the voter for purposes of signature verification provide a valid driver's license, a valid photo identification card issued by a governmental agency, a valid student identification card, a valid Arkansas hunting license, or a valid United States military identification card. If a voter is unable to provide this identification the election official is required to indicate on the precinct voter registration list that the voter did not provide identification.

PREELECTION PROCEEDINGS

Act 1462 (HB1521) - The act provides that any person registering to vote by mail shall appear in person to vote the first time he casts a ballot. This provision does not include persons whose applications are transmitted by state or federal voter registration agencies, persons who are temporarily living in a particular place because of a temporary work-related assignment or duty post as a result of their performing duties in connection with their status as military personnel or students, persons who are covered by the Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, persons covered by the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act, or persons who are entitled to vote otherwise than in person under any other federal law.

ELECTION LAWS

VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

Act 1471 (HB1755) - The act provides new requirements for establishing residency for purposes of voting. Specifically the act provides that voting residence shall be a voter's domicile and shall be governed by the following provisions: domicile of a person is that place in which his habitation is fixed, and to which, whenever he is absent, he has the intention to return. A change of domicile is made only by the act of abandonment, joined with the intent to remain in another place. A person can have only one domicile at any given time. A person does not lose his domicile if he temporarily leaves his home and goes to another country, state or place in this State with the intent of returning; the place where a person's family resides is presumed to be his place of domicile, but a person may acquire a separate residence if he takes another abode with the intention of remaining there. A married person may be considered to have a domicile separate from that of his spouse for the purposes of voting or holding office. For those purposes, domicile is determined as if the person were single. Persons who are temporarily living in a particular place because of a temporary work-related assignment or duty post, or as a result of their performing duties in connection with their status as military personnel, students, or office holders, shall be deemed residents of that place where they established their home prior to beginning such assignments or duties.

VOTER REGISTRATION

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Act 1108 (HB2178) - The act provides that the county clerk may mail an address confirmation to any voter when the clerk receives unconfirmed information that the voter no longer resides at the address listed in the voter registration records.

WRITE-IN VOTES

MUNICIPAL OFFICES EXEMPTED

Act 640 (HB1759) - Write-in votes cannot be used municipal office elections.

ELECTRICIANS

LICENSURE EXEMPTION

INDUSTRY EMPLOYEES

Act 894 (SB868) - The act exempts from the electrician licensing law industry employees performing construction, installation, maintenance, repair, or renovation of electric conductors or equipment or facilities incidental to the business of their industry employer and otherwise covered under nationally recognized safety standards.

WATER WELL CONTRACTORS

Act 493 (HB1638) - The act provides that any person licensed by the Commission on Water Well Construction may run power and control wiring from an existing disconnect box to waterwell equipment without obtaining an electrician's license.

ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES

METHOD OF VERIFICATION

Act 718 (SB418) - The act provides a method for verifying electronic signatures and records.

EMBALMERS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS

OMNIBUS ACT

Act 1138 (SB772) - An omnibus act amending various provisions of the Arkansas Code pertaining to embalmers and funeral directors.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

911 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS CENTERS

FEES

Act 46 (HB1258) - The act modifies the distribution of 911 fees.

AMBULANCE SERVICES

OPERATIONAL PERMITS

Act 38 (HB1072) - The act requires that all ambulance services, including air ambulance services, obtain and annually renew operational permits in each county in which the service maintains an operational base.

AMBULANCES

LICENSES

Act 60 (HB1071) - The act defines "ambulance" and requires that all ambulances meet state standards and be licensed by the state.

DEFIBRILLATORS

IMMUNITY

Act 101 (HB1006) - The act exempts from civil liability any appropriately trained person who uses an automated external defibrillator in an emergency, if the person acts as a reasonable, prudent person would have acted under the circumstances.

DISASTER RELIEF

UTILITY RESTORATION

Act 913 (HB1655) - The act authorizes immediate utility repair in a disaster if the time needed for an official declaration of an emergency would hamper and delay restoration of utility service.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF

NAME CHANGE

Act 646 (HB1677) - The act renames the State Office of Emergency Services as the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

Act 666 (SB99) - The act requires applicants for licensure or renewal of licensure as an emergency medical technician to undergo criminal background checks and sets out procedures for conducting, reviewing and filing those background checks.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

ADDITIONAL MONEYS

Act 140 (SB216) - The act provides that moneys received as penalties under the Asbestos Material Act are authorized to be deposited in the Emergency Response Fund.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

ABANDONED AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDES

REMOVAL FUND CREATED

Act 420 (HB1341) - The act expresses the intent of the General Assembly to provide a method for the disposal of abandoned agricultural pesticides and creates the Abandoned Agricultural Pesticide and Plant Regulator Disposal Trust Fund to be used by the Department of Environmental Quality in developing and implementing plans to dispose of abandoned agricultural pesticides.

AIR QUALITY

DETERIORATION PREVENTION

Act 114 (HB1249) - The act prohibits, except by an act of the General Assembly, the redesignation of any area of the state for the purpose of permitting under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration of Air Quality requirements.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

ASBESTOS REMOVAL

FINES

Act 142 (SB245) - The act provides that fines collected with regard to the Asbestos Materials Act shall be deposited in the Emergency Response Fund.

LICENSURE

Act 54 (SB201) - The act requires that various persons involved in asbestos response actions, demolitions or renovations be licensed by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality.

ENVIRONMENTAL AUDITS

PRIVILEGE

Act 871 (SB424) - The act repeals provisions of the environmental audit privilege law which had made those audits inadmissible in criminal actions.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED, CERTIFICATES OF

UTILITIES

Act 1351 (HB1949) - The act requires that all applicants for certificates of environmental compatibility and public need make copies of the application available for public inspection at all public libraries in any affected county. The act requires that applicants mail notice, specifying the date on or about which the application is to be filed and the date that interventions or limited appearances must be filed with the commission, to each owner of real property on the proposed route on which a major utility facility is to be located or constructed.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF

ERRONEOUS REFERENCES IN THE ARKANSAS CODE

Act 1164 (SB848) - The act amends various sections of the Arkansas Code to change the reference from Department of Pollution Control and Ecology to the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP

Act 1316 (SB682) - The act requires the Director of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality to establish a performance-based financial management system. The act provides the Director of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality with authority to restructure the department in accordance with principles of the National Environmental Performance Partnership.

RESTRUCTURING

Act 1316 (SB682) - The act requires the Director of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality to establish a performance-based financial management system. The act provides the Director of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality with authority to restructure the department in accordance with principles of the National Environmental Performance Partnership.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

Act 1164 (SB848) - The act amends various sections of the Arkansas Code to change the reference from Department of Pollution Control and Ecology to the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality.

VARIANCES

Act 147 (HB1227) - The act authorizes the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality to grant variances and interim authorities throughout the entire process of application review and permit issuance. The act also amends the department's procedures for application review and permit issuance.

GAS PIPELINE REGULATION

JURISDICTION

Act 1048 (SB654) - The act clarifies the jurisdictional relations between the Arkansas Public Service Commission and the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission regarding gas pipeline facilities and the transportation of gas.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION

EXEMPTIONS

Act 1255 (SB618) - The act exempts from the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act of 1977 any vehicles which meet United States Department of Transportation regulations under 49 CFR § 173.

HAZARDOUS SITES

EMERGENCY LISTINGS

Act 45 (HB1229) - The act authorizes the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission to make emergency prioritized listings of hazardous sites and authorizes the director of the Department of Pollution Control and Ecology to expend funds for hazardous sites even if no facts are available to show irreparable harm or imminent and substantial danger.

HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITIES

FEES

Act 1041 (SB474) - The act exempts various hazardous waste facilities from fees based on the quantity of hazardous waste generated and requires the Department of Environmental Quality to make refunds of fees collected in 1997 or later years.

NEWLY-REGULATED FACILITIES

Act 340 (HB1252) - The act authorizes interim operating status for newly-regulated hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities.

HYDROGEN SULFIDE EMISSIONS

STANDARDS

Act 1136 (SB573) - The act sets standards and procedures for enforcing regulations for hydrogen sulfide emission.

LEAD-BASED PAINT

REGULATIONS

Act 53 (SB200) - The act requires the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission to promulgate regulations regarding lead-based paint and the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality to collect monies related to the Lead-Based Paint-Hazard Act.

MEDICAL WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES

Act 150 (SB100) - The act restructures the fee schedule for costs incurred by the Department of Health in processing applications for commercial medical waste facilities.

MINING

CRATER OF DIAMONDS STATE PARK

Act 15 (HB1068) - The act prohibits commercial mining at the Crater of Diamonds State Park. However, recreational mining by individuals is permitted at the park.

QUARRIES

Act 1320 (SB794) - The act changes the requirements for quarry operators to give notice of intent to quarry or to reactivate a quarry. The act requires the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality Control to hold a public meeting on receipt of at least five requests from owners of property within one half mile of the quarry.

NATURAL RESOURCES DAMAGES TRUST FUND

CREATED

Act 895 (SB888) - The act creates the Natural Resources Damages Trust Fund to be used for natural resource restoration, rehabilitation, replacement, or acquisition.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

PESTICIDE REMOVAL

FUND CREATED

Act 420 (HB1341) - The act expresses the intent of the General Assembly to provide a method for the disposal of abandoned agricultural pesticides and creates the Abandoned Agricultural Pesticide and Plant Regulator Disposal Trust Fund to be used by the Department of Environmental Quality in developing and implementing plans to dispose of abandoned agricultural pesticides.

PETROLEUM STORAGE TANKS

CORRECTIVE ACTION DEDUCTIBLES

Act 599 (HB1671) - The act lowers from fifteen thousand to seventy-five hundred dollars the Arkansas Petroleum Storage Tank Trust Fund deductibles for corrective action and third-party coverage.

POLLUTION CONTROL OR ABATEMENT

ALTERNATIVE METHODS

Act 500 (SB227) - The Arkansas Environmental Regulatory Flexibility Act allows applicants to propose and the Department of Environmental Quality to approve alternative methods of pollution control or abatement.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

CAUSING POLLUTION

Act 582 (HB1515) - The act deletes a code reference to specifically identify the offense, namely, causing pollution of the waters or air.

CLOSURE AND POST-CLOSURE CARE

Act 758 (HB1645) - The act amends requirements for funds to be made available for closure and post-closure care of solid waste management facilities, including a new requirement regarding non-Resource Conservation and Recovery Act facilities' estimated annual general revenue amount pledged under a contract of obligation.

INTER-DISTRICT TRANSFER AGREEMENTS

Act 341 (HB1255) - The act broadens the authority of regional solid waste management boards to make agreements for transfers with other districts or with persons in other districts.

RECYCLING FUND

Act 428 (HB1514) - The act requires Solid Waste Management Boards to make annual reports to the Department of Pollution Control and Ecology. Deadline extensions shall be requested from the director.

TRANSFER AGREEMENTS

Act 341 (HB1255) - The act broadens the authority of regional solid waste management boards to make agreements for transfers with other districts or with persons in other districts.

TRANSFER STATIONS

Act 631 (HB1670) - The act requires that applicants for solid waste transfer stations obtain a certificate of need from the affected regional solid waste management board and, if the waste will be transferred to another region, that the applicant show notification of and appproval by the other affected regional board.

SPARTA AQUIFER

COUNTY BOARDS AND FEES

Act 1050 (SB726) - The Sparta Aquifer Critical Groundwater Counties' Remediation Act authorizes county electors to establish local Sparta Aquifer Critical Groundwater County Conservation Boards and sets out the membership, powers and duties of those boards. The act establishes a conservation fee to be assessed upon each registered water user and significant water user of Sparta aquifer water and establishes standards for the use and penalties for misuse of Sparta aquifer water.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

STORAGE TANKS

CORRECTIVE ACTION DEDUCTIBLES

Act 599 (HB1671) - The act lowers from fifteen thousand to seventy-five hundred dollars the Arkansas Petroleum Storage Tank Trust Fund deductibles for corrective action and third-party coverage.

STORAGE TANKS, ABOVE-GROUND

REGULATIONS

Act 600 (HB1672) - The act changes the maximum size of regulated above-ground substance storage tanks, adds new regulations for above ground storage tanks and limits notice requirements for owners of above-ground storage tanks.

STORAGE TANKS, UNDERGROUND

INSTALLATION, REPAIR, OR TESTING

Act 601 (HB1673) - The act provides that when any person licensed by the Department of Environmental Quality to install or test underground storage tanks fails to properly install, remove, repair, close, upgrade, or test any underground storage tank the director of the department shall commence forfeiture proceedings on the licensee's surety bond.

UPGRADE

Act 505 (SB389) - The act requires that underground storage tanks be upgraded and that no controlled substances be placed in or sold for placement in an underground storage tank which has not been upgraded.

VARIANCES

PROCEDURES

Act 147 (HB1227) - The act authorizes the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality to grant variances and interim authorities throughout the entire process of application review and permit issuance. The act also amends the department's procedures for application review and permit issuance.

WASTE TIRE GRANT FUND

SET ASIDE

Act 775 (SB442) - The act sets aside a portion of the waste tire grant fund for supplemental aid.

WASTEWATER

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Act 229 (SB135) - The act requires that applicants for permits regarding waste water bear the cost of both publication of notice of application and of proposals to grant permits.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS

FEES

Act 777 (SB480) - The act sets new licensing and examination fees for wastewater treatment plants.

ETHICS

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

CANDIDATES ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Act 1057 (SB875) - The act provides that a candidate who is on a leave of absence without pay from his primary place of employment and who takes campaign funds during the campaign and before the election may treat the campaign funds as a loan to be paid back to the campaign fund.

ETHICS

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

EMPLOYMENT, CONTRACTS, GRANTS

Act 34 (SB20) - The act prohibits state constitutional officers and members of the General Assembly from entering into any employment, lease agreement or contract with a state agency or receiving a grant from a state agency.

FINANCAL DISCLOSURE

SCHOOLS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS

Act 1172 (HB1675) - The act requires all persons who are elected members of a school board or who are candidates for a position on a school board to file a finance disclosure statement. The act also requires a finance disclosure statement to be filed by any person appointed to one of the following types of regional, municipal, or county boards or commissions: a planning board or commission; an airport board or commission; a water or sewer board or commission; a utility board or commission; or a civil service commission.

OMNIBUS AMENDMENTS

Act 553 (SB182) - An omnibus act that amends various campaign and ethics laws.

FIRE PROTECTION

FIREMEN'S PENSION AND RELIEF FUND

DISTRIBUTION OF PREMIUM TAXES

Act 1394 (HB1412) - The act sets forth the formula for distributing certain insurance premium taxes into the Firemen's and Police Officers' Pension and Relief Fund.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Act 1034 (SB156) - The act provides scholarships for surviving children of Department of Correction employees, volunteer firemen and state forestry employees, state parks employees, and public school teachers killed in the line of duty.

FIREARMS

CONCEALED HANDGUNS

NATIONAL INSTANT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM

Act 51 (SB8) - The act makes applicants for a concealed carry permit subject to a background check through the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).

PERMIT

Act 487 (HB1209) - The act takes away the discretion of the State Police Director to set the application and renewal fees for a concealed carry permit, and sets the fees at $100 for the application and license, and $35 for renewal.

POST PRISON TRANSFER BOARD

Act 1253 (SB307) - The act allows members of the Post Prison Transfer Board and their investigators who have concealed carry permits to carry their concealed handguns in any building or location which law enforcement officers are allowed to carry their handguns.

RESTRICTED/UNRESTRICTED PERMITS

Act 786 (HB1011) - The act allows persons issued an unrestricted concealed carry permit to carry any handgun, and persons issued a restricted concealed carry permit to carry any handgun other than a semiautomatic handgun.

CRIME LABORATORY, STATE

DATABASE

Act 1558 (SB818) - The act provides that all firearms which come into the custody of law enforcement agencies shall be delivered to the State Crime Laboratory for ballistics tests for the NIBIN of the FBI.

FIREARMS

LAWSUITS AGAINST MANUFACTURERS OR DEALERS

Act 951 (HB1717) - The act preempts local units of government from filing lawsuits against firearm and ammunition manufacturers or gun dealers for damages from the lawful manufacture or sale of firearms and ammunition to the public, and reserves that authority to the State.

PAROLE AND PROBATION OFFICERS

OFF DUTY HOURS

Act 1456 (HB1493) - The act authorizes parole and probation officers to carry non-state issued firearms during off-duty hours.

POSSESSION BY MINORS

Act 1149 (SB364) - When a parent of a minor knows that the minor is in illegal possession of a firearm in or upon the premises of a public or private school, in or on the school's athletic stadium or other facility or building where school sponsored events are conducted, or public park, playground or civic center, and the parent or guardian fails to prevent the possession or fails to report the possession to the appropriate school or law enforcement officials, the parent shall be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

POSSESSION ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Act 1282 (HB1935) - The act prohibits possession of a firearm on school property, school buses, or at school bus stops.

FLEA MARKETS AND SWAP MEETS

Act 1350 (HB1946) - The act regulates unused property markets, such as swap meets and flea markets. The act prohibits the sale at those markets of food for infants and babies and of various personal goods. The act requires that those markets keep receipts for various transactions and sets a range of penalties for noncompliance.

FORESTRY

FORESTERS REGISTRATION

Act 993 (SB48) - The act amends various provisions of the State Board of Registration for Foresters Act.

FORESTRY COMMISSION, ARKANSAS

BURNING

Act 107 (HB1138) - The act clarifies the requirement that notice of intent to burn forest vegetation be given to the Arkansas Forestry Commission prior to burning. The notice requirement includes the burning of debris from land clearing, but only if the debris weighs at least one ton. The act exempts the open burning of yard waste.

DONATION OF FIRE AND RESCUE EQUIPMENT

Act 106 (HB1107) - The act defines fire control and rescue equipment and authorizes the donation of that kind of equipment to the Arkansas Forestry Commission. The act also immunizes from civil action anyone donating fire control or rescue equipment and any manager or employee of the forest service who uses that equipment.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

Act 28 (HB1139) - The act expands the law enforcement authority of designated Arkansas Forestry Commission personnel who have the powers of peace officers.

MISSION STATEMENT

Act 27 (HB1137) - The act provides a new mission statement for the Arkansas Forestry Commission and revises provisions regarding forest resources and various agencies to make those provisions consistent with the new mission statement.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Act 1034 (SB156) - The act provides scholarships for surviving children of Department of Correction employees, volunteer firemen and state forestry employees, state parks employees, and public school teachers killed in the line of duty.

FORESTRY

SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR MACHINERY USED IN HARVESTING

Act 1334 (HB1566) - The act provides that the first fifty thousand dollars ($50,000) of the purchase price on the sale of machinery or equipment and related attachments that are sold to or used by a person engaged primarily in the harvesting of timber shall be exempt from sales and use tax.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

COURT OF APPEALS

Act 1093 (HB1817) - The act provides that unpublished memoranda, working papers, and correspondence of judges of the Arkansas Court of Appeals are exempt from the Freedom of Information Act.

ELECTRONIC RECORDS STUDY COMMISSION, ARKANSAS

Act 1060 (SB899) - The act creates the Arkansas Electronic Records Study Commission to develop recommendations for amendments to the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act as it relates to electronic records.

HOME VISITATION PROGRAM

Act 1115 (HB1613) - The act establishes the Arkansas Prenatal and Early Childhood Nurse Home Visitation Program, establishes the Arkansas Prenatal and Early Childhood Nurse Home Visitation Program Advisory Council and sets out the membership, powers and duties of the council. The act exempts the program from the Freedom of Information Act and authorizes physicians and various institutions to give information in confidence to the council. The bill authorizes the Department of Health to provide funds to the program.

TAX REPORTS

Act 1598 (SB352) - The act makes confidential all information contained in a corporate franchise tax report except the name and address of the corporation; the name of the corporation's president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and controller; the total authorized capital stock with par value; the total issued and outstanding capital stock with par value; and the state of incorporation.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, JOINT COMMITTEE ON

MEMBERSHIP

Act 3 (HB1010) - The act authorizes the Speaker of the House to appoint any seven (7) members of the House to serve on the Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Act 1414 (SB620) - The act provides that all legislator positions on executive branch boards and commissions are to be filled by nonlegislators.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - BIRTHDAY

Act 306 (HB1177) - The act provides that the General Assembly shall not convene in session nor conduct committee meetings on the third Monday in January in observance of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TASKFORCE, ARKANSAS

Act 713 (SB379) - The act creates a legislative committee to be known as the Arkansas Information Technology Taskforce. The taskforce is to explore strategies for improving the utilization of information technology by the state in its political subdivisions. The taskforce is to submit its report and recommendations to the Joint Committee On Advanced Communications And Information Technology, and the Arkansas Legislative Council before March 1, 2000. The taskforce is temporary and will expire on January 1, 2001.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

REVIEW OF DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

Act 1032 (HB1870) - The act provides that no state agency may award any discretionary grant prior to review by the Legislative Council or the Joint Budget Committee except in case of an emergency.

MENTAL ILLNESS TASK FORCE

Act 1421 (SB860) - The act authorizes the chairs of the Senate and House Committees on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor to establish a task force to prepare a proposal for the next legislative session to address the needs of the mentally ill in residential care facilities.

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION REFORM, JOINT INTERIM

CREATED

Act 1163 (SB826) - The act renames the Joint Interim Oversight Committee on Higher Education Reform as the Joint Interim Oversight Committee on Education Reform and expands its jurisdiction to include all levels of education.

RETIREMENT LEGISLATION

INTRODUCTION DEADLINE

Act 1026 (SB799) - The act provides that bills affecting publicly supported retirement systems must be introduced no later than the fifteenth day of any regular biennial session.

HEALTH

ACUPUNCTURE

ACUPUNCTURE AND RELATED TECHNIQUES, ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF

Act 536 (SB66) - The act increases membership on the Arkansas State Board of Acupuncture and Related Techniques from three to five and provides for the appointment of the two new members.

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

STANDARDS

Act 484 (HB1014) - The Alzheimer's Special Care Standards Act defines Alzheimer's's Special Care Unit/Programs, requires that those unit/programs disclose to the Office of Long-Term the treatments and care which qualify under the act and requires the Office of Long-Term Care to set minimum standards for care in Alzheimer Special Care Unit/Programs.

AMBULANCE SERVICES

OPERATIONAL PERMITS

Act 38 (HB1072) - The act requires that all ambulance services, including air ambulance services, obtain and annually renew operational permits in each county in which the service maintains an operational base.

AMBULANCES

LICENSES

Act 60 (HB1071) - The act defines "ambulance" and requires that all ambulances meet state standards and be licensed by the state.

AMPUTEE FOUNDATION, ARKANSAS

Act 789 (HB1557) - The act repeals provisions regarding the Arkansas State Amputee Foundation, its purpose, powers and duties.

ANATOMICAL GIFTS

METHOD OF DOCUMENTING

Act 707 (SB120) - The act provides that an anatomical gift may be made by telephonic message witnessed by at least two people in which case the witnesses must document the telephonic message in writing.

HEALTH

ARKIDS FIRST

Act 849 (SB684) - The act establishes the ARKids First Program to provide health care for children up to two hundred percent of the federal poverty guidelines and sets out procedures under which the Department of Human Services will implement the program.

CANCER TREATMENT

INSURANCE COVERAGE

Act 466 (SB151) - The act makes technical changes in the definition of medical literature and requires that insurance policies which cover prescription drugs may not deny coverage for experimental drugs or experimental dosages of drugs approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of cancer.

CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS, ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF

MEMBERSHIP

Act 1553 (SB775) - The act changes the scope of chiropractic practice. The act amends the membership of the Arkansas State Board of Chiropractic Examiners and authorizes reimbursement of expenses.

COMMUNITY ALCOHOL SAFETY PROGRAM

TRANSFERRED TO ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION, BUREAU OF

Act 1219 (SB911) - The act provides that the Community Alcohol Safety Program is transferred from the State Highway and Transportation Department to the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention of the Department of Health.

Act 1426 (HB1458) - The act transfers the Community Alcohol Safety Program from the State Highway and Transportation Department to the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention of the Department of Health.

DEFIBRILLATORS

OWNERSHIP AND IMMUNITY

Act 101 (HB1006) - The act sets standards for the ownership and use of automated external defibrillators and exempts from civil liability any appropriately trained person who uses an automated external defibrillator in an emergency, if the person acts as a reasonable, prudent person would have acted under the given circumstances.

DENTISTS

DENTAL EXAMINERS, ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF

Act 44 (HB1210) - The act grants the dental hygienist member of the State Board of Dental Examiners the same voting privileges as the other members on the board.

Act 492 (HB1624) - The act provides that members of the board may receive a stipend not to exceed one hundred dollars per meeting attended, examination, evaluation, or inspections attended or for any day while performing any proper business of the board, and the board members shall receive no other compensation, expense reimbursement, or in-lieu-of payments except as provided in § 25-16-902.

INSURANCE COVERAGE

Act 1232 (HB2118) - The act requires that every health plan which provides dental benefits must provide benefits to covered persons through dentists who are not members of the carrier's provider network. The act requires the Insurance Commissioner to promulgate regulations to carry out the act.

LICENSE RENEWAL

Act 581 (HB1512) - The act authorizes the Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners to require examinations and other information from persons who wish to renew their dental licenses while working out of state, after having worked out of state or after forfeiture of the license.

HEALTH

DENTISTS

MAXILLOFACIAL PROCEDURES

Act 143 (SB295) - The act authorizes dentists to perform various procedures on the maxillofacial area and on adjacent and associated structures.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Act 143 (SB295) - The act amends the definition of the practice of dentistry to authorize dentists to perform procedures on the maxillofacial area and adjacent and associated structures.

DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED

ELIGIBILITY

Act 1437 (HB1854) - The act repeals the residency requirement for admission to a human development center and replaces the term "mentally deficient" with the term "developmentally disabled."

DISCOUNT CARDS

REGULATIONS

Act 1406 (HB2015) - The act requires that health-related cash discount cards which are not insurance cards must expressly provide in bold and prominent type that the discounts are not insurance and that the cards are specifically authorized by an individual and separate contract with each health care provider listed in conjunction with the card. The act prohibits misleading deceptive or fraudulent claims about the discounts offered, regardless of the literal wording used. The act authorizes civil actions, to include injunctions, recovery of up to $10,000, treble damages, attorneys fees, costs and "other relief." The act sets a two year statute of limitations. The act exempts vision care services.

DISPENSING OPTICIANS, BOARD OF

RULES

Act 524 (SB497) - The act changes the conflict of interest rules for the Board of Dispensing Opticians, allows the board to adopt an official seal and to administer oaths and issue subpoenas. The act requires that an office permit be displayed in every office or place of businesses where ophthalmic dispensing services are conducted.

DOCTOR TITLE

Act 338 (HB1206) - The act prohibits the use of the term "doctor" by anyone not licensed in Arkansas in one of the healing arts.

DRUG ABUSE COUNSELORS

BOARD ESTABLISHED

Act 1588 (SB254) - The act establishes the State Board of Examiners of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors and sets out its membership, powers and duties. The act requires licensure of persons practicing as alcoholism and drug abuse counselors.

DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAMS

METHADONE/LAAM

Act 12 (SB110) - The act requires that all Methadone/LAAM treatment programs be licensed by the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Prevention, even if the program shows evidence of other accreditation.

ELDER CARE

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

Act 1409 (HB2218) - The act requires entities enrolled as Medicaid providers of Elder Choices services to request criminal background checks on all applicants for employment, prohibits employment of persons convicted of certain offenses and provides for disqualification of the entity from elder care. The act prohibits state agency directors from waiving disqualification for applicants who have been convicted of certain criminal offenses.

HEALTH

ELDER CARE

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

Act 1467 (HB1623) - The act requires criminal background checks on persons employed through an employment agency to perform health care for the elderly. The act requires that the criminal background checks be initiated by the hiring entity.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

Act 666 (SB99) - The act requires applicants for licensure or renewal of licensure as an emergency medical technician to undergo criminal background checks and sets out procedures for conducting, reviewing and filing those background checks.

FOOD SERVICES

PERMITS

Act 217 (HB1340) - The act requires that food service establishment permits be issued by the Division of Environmental Health Protection of the Department of Health and raises permit fees from twenty-five to thirty-five dollars and from seventy-five to one hundred five dollars, respectively.

FRAUD, INVESTIGATIONS OF

HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Act 1544 (SB656) - The act authorizes the Director of the Department of Human Services to establish a process to review claims made by health care providers, to determine whether there has been fraud and to impose administrative sanctions.

GERONTOLOGY CENTER

Act 1068 (SB215) - The act authorizes the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences to establish in Phillips County a center for gerontology research and education and to work with Phillips County Community College in training nurses in gerontology.

HEALTH EDUCATION

GRANT PROGRAM

Act 1218 (SB834) - The act moves administration of the health education grant program from the Arkansas Student Loan Authority to the Department of Higher Education

HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS

OUT-OF-NETWORK COVERAGE

Act 1469 (HB1703) - The Freedom of Choice Among Health Benefit Plans Act of 1999 requires health maintenance organizations which operate health provider networks to allow annual opportunities for covered persons to choose out-of-network coverage. That act limits any difference in benefit level between in and out-of network plans to no more than twenty-five percent and requires that employers make equal contributions for in an out-of-network plans. The act requires that benefits for out-of-network coverage be at least eighty percent of cost. The act requires the Insurance Commissioner to promulgate regulations to implement the act.

RISK BASED CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS

Act 580 (HB1511) - The act requires health maintenance organizations to prepare and file risk based capital requirements plans with the Insurance Commissioner and sets out procedures for enforcing the requirement.

HEALTH RESOURCES COMMISSION, ARKANSAS

ABOLISHED

Act 638 (HB1754) - The act abolishes the Arkansas Health Resources Commission and transfers any remaining commission funds to the Department of Human Services - Grants Fund for commitment to the Medicaid Program.

HEALTH

HEARING AID DISPENSERS

Act 592 (HB1652) - The act renames the governing board for hearing aid dispensers the Arkansas Board of Hearing Instrument Dispensers and changes the membership of the board. That act changes the qualifications and scope of practice for internships for hearing-aid dispenser students, prohibits hearing aid dispensing without licensing or an internship, changes notice requirements for change of address, authorizes board investigations and provides for penalties.

HOSPICE COVERAGE

Act 922 (HB1801) - The act requires that all health insurance plans provide coverage for hospice care.

HOSPITALS

ACCREDITATION

Act 506 (SB425) - The act makes all hospitals accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations licensable by the Department of Health without further survey if the hospital's accreditation is current and the department is provided with copies of the accreditation report and certification.

HEARING TESTS FOR NEWBORNS

Act 1559 (SB819) - The act establishes the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening, Tracking, and Intervention Advisory Board and sets out its membership, powers and duties. The act requires that every birthing hospital in this state with more than fifty births per year provide or arrange for a bilateral physiological hearing screening on each birth admission.

INSURANCE PLAN OVERSIGHT

GRIEVANCE SYSTEMS

Act 1200 (SB677) - The act requires that all health carriers and networks establish grievance systems and quality assessment and improvement systems. The act authorizes the Director of the Department of Health to implement and set penalties for violations of the act.

JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITIES

INSPECTIONS

Act 770 (SB249) - The act authorizes the Director of the Department of Health or an agent to enter the controlled premises of juvenile facilities operated by or under contract with the Division of Youth Services of the Department of Human Services and conduct random and unannounced health inspections of the facilities and authorizes the Director of the Department of Correction or an agent to enter those facilities and conduct random and unannounced security inspections.

LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

DEATH OF A RESIDENT

Act 499 (SB222) - The act requires that if a resident of a long-term care facility dies in the facility or if a resident of a long-term care facility dies in a hospital within two days of admission, the facility or hospital must report the death to the coroner regardless of the presumed cause of death. The act requires that if the coroner finds reasonable cause to suspect that the deceased suffered abuse, sexual abuse or neglect, the coroner must report the finding to the police or the prosecuting attorney.

FOOD SERVICES

Act 1362 (HB2110) - The act requires that, within three years, food services directors in long-term care facilities having more than fifty (50) beds meet new standards for certification and education.

PHOTOGRAPHING OF RESIDENTS

Act 709 (SB223) - The act allows the photographing of residents of long-term care facilities without their permission if the photographs are taken as part of a review or investigation by the Office of Long Term Care, the office of the Attorney General, or the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

HEALTH

LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

RIGHTS OF RESIDENTS

Act 1181 (SB226) - The act declares the rights of residents of long-term care facilities, authorizes civil actions for violations of those rights and immunizes the facility against the negligence of non-staff health providers. The act establishes a criminal penalty for alteration of documents. The act sets standards for the administration of long-term care facilities. The act requires that long-term care facilities protect the personal property of residents. The act authorizes entry into long-term care facilities by agents of the Department of Human Services and requires long-term care facilities to make public the results of all inspections.

MARINE SANITATION

REGULATION

Act 1101 (HB1995) - The act authorizes the State Board of Health to regulate marine sanitation systems and sets penalties for violations. The act establishes a Marine Sanitation Advisory Committee and sets out its membership, powers and duties.

MEDICAID

DISABLED WORKING PERSONS

Act 1197 (SB626) - The act authorizes the Department of Human Services to apply to the Health Care Financing Administration to allow medical assistance to disabled working persons whose family incomes are less than two hundred fifty percent of the federal poverty guideline. The act establishes funding for the program.

ELDER CARE

Act 1409 (HB2218) - The act requires entities enrolled as Medicaid providers of Elder Choices services to request criminal background checks on all applicants for employment, prohibits employment of persons convicted of certain offenses and provides for disqualification of the entity from elder care. The act prohibits state agency directors from waiving disqualification for applicants who have been convicted of certain criminal offenses.

WAIVER

Act 1595 (SB917) - The act requires the Department of Human Services to seek a Medicare reimbursement policy waiver or appropriate cooperative relationship with the federal government to permit Arkansas to create a ten-year demonstration project in economically disadvantaged counties for the purpose of increasing the number of physicians and improving the health care facilities in those counties.

MEDICAL RECORD ACCESS

Act 333 (HB1070) - The act clarifies the entities from which patients can receive their own medical records in contemplation of a legal action.

MEDICAL WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES

FEES

Act 150 (SB100) - The act restructures the fee schedule for costs incurred by the Department of Health in processing applications for commercial medical waste facilities.

MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

Act 1233 (HB2136) - The act requires that each college or university advise students and their parents or guardians of the increased risk of meningococcal disease in students who live in close quarters, such as college or university dormitories. The act also requires that each college or university also advise students and their parents or guardians that a vaccination is available against the potentially fatal meningococcal disease.

HEALTH

MENTAL ILLNESS TASK FORCE

Act 1421 (SB860) - The act authorizes the chairs of the Senate and House Committees on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor to establish a task force to prepare a proposal for the next legislative session to address the needs of the mentally ill in residential care facilities.

MIDWIVES

Act 1208 (SB711) - The act makes changes in the definitions of practice for nurses and midwives. The act gives new disciplinary power to the Arkansas State Board of Nursing and authorizes the board to require criminal background checks for licensure of applicants.

NURSES

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

Act 1208 (SB711) - The act makes changes in the definitions of practice for nurses and midwives. The act gives new disciplinary power to the Arkansas State Board of Nursing and authorizes the board to require criminal background checks for licensure of applicants.

HOME VISITATION PROGRAM

Act 1115 (HB1613) - The act establishes the Arkansas Prenatal and Early Childhood Nurse Home Visitation Program, establishes the Arkansas Prenatal and Early Childhood Nurse Home Visitation Program Advisory Council and sets out the membership, powers and duties of the council. The act exempts the program from the Freedom of Information Act and authorizes physicians and various institutions to give information in confidence to the council. The bill authorizes the Department of Health to provide funds to the program.

INTERSTATE LICENSURE

Act 220 (SB28) - The act adopts the Interstate Nurse Licensure Compact which sets up procedures for recognizing and overseeing multistate nursing licensure.

NURSE'S MASTERS DEGREE

Act 193 (HB1251) - The act allows the Department of Health to provide assistance to employees seeking a master's degree in public health.

NURSING PRACTICE STUDENT LOAN AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Act 1311 (HB1975) - The act allows nurse educators to participate in the in the Rural Advanced Nursing Practice Student Loan and Scholarship Program and the Advanced Nursing Practice Community Match Student Loan Program.

NURSING, ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF

Act 941 (HB1943) - The act authorizes the Governor to change the terms of membership of two members of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing in order to more evenly stagger the terms.

NURSING HOMES

IMMUNIZATIONS

Act 1524 (SB346) - The act authorizes the State Board of Health to promulgate regulations to require nursing homes to immunize all employees and to offer immunization to all residents against the flu and pneumonia. The act requires the Arkansas Department of Health to provide vaccines, supplies, and staff necessary for the immunizations.

STAFFING REQUIREMENTS

Act 1529 (SB426) - The act establishes minimum ratios of licensed health providers to nursing home residents.

OPTOMETRY, STATE BOARD OF

STIPENDS

Act 1053 (SB814) - The act increases the daily stipend for members of the State Board of Optometry from seventy-five dollars ($75.00) to one hundred dollars ($100.00).

HEALTH

PERFUSIONISTS

LICENSURE

Act 888 (SB499) - The Perfusionist Licensure Act establishes the Perfusionists Advisory Committee which will recommend standards for perfusionist practice to the State Board of Health. The act requires the Department of Health to promulgate and implement procedures and regulations for licensing perfusionists.

PHARMACY

HOSPITAL PHARMACIES

Act 644 (HB1972) - The act authorizes inspectors for the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy to inspect any facility holding a license or permit from the board, including hospital pharmacies.

OMNIBUS REVISIONS

Act 105 (HB1066) - The act changes various requirements for licensing pharmacists. The act defines and adds to the practice of pharmacy care "disease state management." The act includes pharmacokenetic services within the practice of pharmacy care. The act replaces the title "qualified pharmacy employee" with "pharmacy technician." The act excepts immunizations and vaccinations from the definition of a written protocol. The act defines "patient care plan" and defines credentialing of pharmacists in disease state management and authorizes a maximum fee for those credentials. The act repeals the requirement for annual renewal of licensure under the Arkansas Prophylactic law. The act changes various procedures for membership on the board and various procedures for issuing notices and subpoenas. The act authorizes various penalties. The act repeals various code provisions inconsistent with the act.

OUT-OF-STATE PHARMACIES

Act 1486 (HB1989) - The act requires any pharmacy operating outside the state which routinely sends prescription drug orders into the state to have on staff an Arkansas licensed pharmacist. The act authorizes the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy to promulgate regulations to enforce the act.

PHENYLKETONURIA

INSURANCE COVERAGE

Act 1113 (HB1183) - The act requires health care plans to provide coverage for medically necessary foods for the treatment of a covered person afflicted with phenylketornuria and provides for an income tax credit to families, up to two thousand four hundred dollars per year per child for the cost for those foods.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

LICENSES

Act 851 (SB417) - The act defines "physician assistant," establishes licensure procedures and scope of practice and authorizes the Arkansas State Medical Board to oversee that licensure and practice.

PHYSICIANS

CREDENTIALING INFORMATION AND ORGANIZATIONS

Act 1410 (HB2253) - The act authorizes the Arkansas State Medical Board to require all physicians licensed in the state to provide information regarding the physician's professional training, qualifications, background, practice history, and experience, requires credentialing organizations to provide requested information to the board and provides for sanctions for failure to meet the board's requirements. The act requires the board to promulgate regulations to enforce the act, requires the board to establish an advisory board to oversee the provisions of the act and authorizes the board to take civil action to enforce the act.

EXAMINATIONS

Act 490 (HB1513) - The act provides that materials for medical licensing examinations may be obtained from the executive secretary of the Arkansas State Medical Board for up to one year after each exam and makes the fee for reexaminations equal to the fee for the first exam.

HEALTH

PHYSICIANS

MEDICAL BOARD, ARKANSAS STATE

Act 492 (HB1624) - The act provides that members of the board may receive a stipend not to exceed one hundred dollars per meeting attended, examination, evaluation, or inspections attended or for any day while performing any proper business of the board, and the board members shall receive no other compensation, expense reimbursement, or in-lieu-of payments except as provided in § 25-16-902.

REGISTRY NUMBER PROTECTED

Act 1302 (HB1648) - The act prohibits health insurance companies from requiring anyone to disclose a physician's Drug Enforcement Administration registry number.

RURAL PRACTICE GRANTS

Act 589 (HB1606) - The act establishes the Rural Physician Incentive Revolving Fund, authorizes the Department of Health to make grants to rural physicians to establish their practices and requires repayment of grants by physicians who do not complete the program set out in the grant agreement.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Act 1167 (SB965) - The act provides the method by which and condition under which an employee may change physicians under the Workers' Compensation Law.

PODIATRISTS

ANKLE, TREATMENT OF

Act 1370 (HB2183) - The act expands the scope of practice for podiatrists by authorizing treatment of the ankle.

POWER OF ATTORNEY, DURABLE

Act 1448 (HB1331) - The act authorizes durable powers of attorney for health care and defines the parameters of the agency created by such durable powers.

PRENATAL AND INFANT CARE

NURSE HOME VISITATION

Act 1115 (HB1613) - The act establishes the Arkansas Prenatal and Early Childhood Nurse Home Visitation Program, establishes the Arkansas Prenatal and Early Childhood Nurse Home Visitation Program Advisory Council and sets out the membership, powers and duties of the council. The act exempts the program from the Freedom of Information Act and authorizes physicians and various institutions to give information in confidence to the council. The bill authorizes the Department of Health to provide funds to the program.

PROSTATE CANCER, OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Act 397 (SB349) - The act creates and establishes the powers and duties of the Oversight Committee on Prostate Cancer.

RADIATION TECHNICIANS

LICENSURE

Act 1071 (SB347) - The Consumer-Patient Radiation Health and Safety Act requires that any person using radioactive materials or medical equipment emitting or detecting ionizing radiation on human beings for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes be licensed. The act establishes the Medical Ionizing Radiation Licensure Committee and sets out the membership, powers and duties of the committee.

RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES

INFORMATION, RELEASE OF

Act 1539 (SB569) - The act authorizes the Office of Long-Term Care to release information regarding complaints against residential care facilities.

HEALTH

RESTAURANTS

PERMITS

Act 217 (HB1340) - The act requires that food service establishment permits be issued by the Division of Environmental Health Protection of the Department of Health and raises permit fees from twenty-five to thirty-five dollars and from seventy-five to one hundred five dollars, respectively.

RURAL HEALTH SERVICE GRANTS

MATCHING FUNDS

Act 590 (HB1607) - The act authorizes matching funds from the Rural Health Services Revolving Fund to be granted to applicants who have completed a community health needs assessment on a twenty-five/seventy-five cash basis.

SOCIAL WORK

RECODIFICATION

Act 1122 (SB662) - The act moves the Social Work Licensing Act from Chapter 46 to Chapter 103 of Title 17 of the Arkansas Code.

TEENAGE PREGNANCY

PREVENTION PROGRAM

Act 1000 (SB787) - The act requires the Department of Health to coordinate interagency efforts regarding, and to serve as the administrative and fiscal agent for, the Unwed Birth and Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Program.

TERMINALLY ILL OR PERMANENTLY UNCONSCIOUS

Act 1536 (SB527) - The act amends the "Arkansas Rights of the Terminally Ill or Permanently Unconscious Act" to correct technical errors and omissions in certain existing procedural statutes.

WHEELCHAIR LEMON LAW

Act 953 (SB4) - The act establishes a wheelchair lemon law for the State of Arkansas.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

CHANGE OF PHYSICIAN

Act 1167 (SB965) - The act provides the method by which and condition under which an employee may change physicians under the Workers' Compensation Law.

HIGHWAYS

CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION

BOND ISSUE

Act 1027 (HB1500) - The act authorizes the Arkansas State Highway Commission to issue revenue bonds not to exceed $575,000,000 for the purpose of constructing and renovating roads and highways. The act authorizes that the repayment of the bonds shall be guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the state and prescribes the terms and conditions of the issuance of such bonds. The act describes the sources of repayment of the bonds and provides for a statewide election on the question of issuing such bonds.

HIGHWAY SAFETY

ACCIDENT EVALUATION AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Act 1275 (HB1401) - The act requires the reporting of the highway accident locations to the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department. The Highway Department must survey highway accident locations, evaluate the need for any highway safety improvements at those locations, and then schedule safety improvements if deemed warranted by the Department.

HIGHWAYS

MOTOR AND DISTILLATE FUEL TAXES

Act 1028 (HB1548) - The act levies an additional excise tax on motor fuel in the amount of 1¢ per gallon per year for 3 years. The act also levies an additional excise tax on distillate special fuel in the amount of 2¢ per gallon on the effective date of the act and provides that the tax on distillate special fuel will increase to 4¢ per gallon effective one year after the effective date of the act. The act also provides that the additional taxes collected pursuant to the act shall be special revenues and shall be distributed as set forth in the Arkansas Highway Revenue Distribution Law. The act also eliminates the current limitation on the transfer of funds to the State Aid Road Fund.

OBSTRUCTION OF HIGHWAYS

DEFENSES

Act 1105 (HB2055) - The act provides that it is a defense to prosecution for obstructing a highway or other public passage if the highway or public passage obstructed has not been established as a city street, county road, or state or federal highway and no civil court has established a right of passage by prescription for such highway or passage.

PUBLIC ROADS IMPROVEMENTS CREDIT ACT, ARKANSAS

Act 1347 (HB1912) - The act establishes the "Arkansas Public Roads Improvements Credit Act" which provides income tax credits to taxpayers for contributions which aid in the construction of capital improvements for public roads.

SCENIC HIGHWAYS

CROWLEY'S RIDGE SCENIC HIGHWAY

Act 302 (HB1356) - The act clarifies the boundaries of the Crowley's Ridge Scenic Highway.

GREAT RIVER ROAD

Act 392 (SB246) - The act redefines the portions of the Great River Road which constitute an Arkansas scenic highway.

WRECKED VEHICLES

DEBRIS REMOVAL

Act 82 (HB1244) - The act requires people removing damaged or wrecked vehicles to clear debris from any affected roadway.

HUNTING

ELK PERMIT

Act 987 (HB2097) - The act provides a special thirty-five dollar ($35.00) annual permit for hunting elk.

FERAL HOGS

DEFINITION

Act 457 (HB1440) - The act defines feral hogs and allows the hunting of feral hogs.

IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

DRAINAGE DISTRICTS

MERGER OF DRAINAGE DISTRICTS AUTHORIZED

Act 329 (SB275) - The act creates a mechanism whereby existing drainage improvement districts can merge with other drainage districts into a single larger drainage improvement district to simplify the administration and operations of the districts. It provides the procedure for the merger and spells out the authority of the newly merged drainage district.

PROCEDURE FOR ABOLISHING DISTRICTS

IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

DRAINAGE DISTRICTS

PROCEDURE FOR ABOLISHING DISTRICTS

Act 1321 (SB865) - The act provides a procedure for drainage districts to be abolished when all indebtedness is paid, the improvements are abandoned, and no maintenance assurances are given. When it is inadvisable or impracticable to continue in operation and not for the best interests of the property owners, the board of commissioners of any drainage district may file a petition in the court in which the district was organized to abolish the district if all indebtedness of the district has been fully paid and if no assurance of continued operation and maintenance has been given to the United States or the state. It is within the discretion of the circuit court to decide if the petition will be approved and the district abolished.

MUNICIPAL PROPERTY OWNERS' IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PETITIONERS ELIMINATED

Act 475 (SB390) - The act eliminates the maximum number of 25 property owners needed to petition to form the district for Property Owners' and Municipal Property Owners' Improvement Districts. It will no longer require a maximum of 25 petitioners, just 100% of the property owners within the proposed district.

PROPERTY OWNERS' IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PETITIONERS ELIMINATED

Act 475 (SB390) - The act eliminates the maximum number of 25 property owners needed to petition to form the district for Property Owners' and Municipal Property Owners' Improvement Districts. It will no longer require a maximum of 25 petitioners, just 100% of the property owners within the proposed district.

WATER AND SEWAGE SYSTEMS

FINANCIAL AUDIT

Act 218 (HB1398) - Any county, municipality, improvement district, or not-for-profit association or entity receiving fees from customers for providing water or sewage services must obtain an annual financial audit of the system if the system has at least 500 service connections during any fiscal year. Any county, municipality, improvement district, or not-for-profit association or entity receiving fees from customers for providing water or sewage services and having between 100 and 500 service connections during any fiscal year must obtain an annual audit or an annual report of agreed upon procedures.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

INFORMATION AGE COMMUNITIES, COMMISSION ON

Act 712 (SB327) - The act establishes the Commission on Information Age Communities. The commission is authorized to engage in cooperative programs and activities involving the establishment and encouragement of community based technologies, systems, networks, and services that are designed to enhance the quality of life, educational opportunity, and economic well-being of residents of a city, county, or unincorporated area or any combination thereof.

INFORMATION SCIENCE AND SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

Act 1447 (HB1290) - The act creates a College of Information Science and Systems Engineering at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS, DEPARTMENT OF

INFORMATION NETWORK OF ARKANSAS

Act 538 (SB378) - The act amends the Information Network of Arkansas Act. Included is the requirement that the Information Network of Arkansas develop and implement an electronic gateway system to provide electronic access to public information and to develop, implement, and promote the use of electronic commerce and digital signature applications within the state in cooperation with the Department of Information Systems.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

INFORMATION SYSTEMS, DEPARTMENT OF

VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS

Act 1227 (HB2044) - The act requires the state or any state-assisted organization to provide blind or visually impaired individuals with access to information technology equipment and software in use by the agency or organization. The act requires the Department of Information Systems to ensure compliance with nonvisual access standards established by the state.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TASKFORCE, ARKANSAS

Act 713 (SB379) - The act creates a legislative committee to be known as the Arkansas Information Technology Taskforce. The taskforce is to explore strategies for improving the utilization of information technology by the state in its political subdivisions. The taskforce is to submit its report and recommendations to the joint committee on advanced communications and information technology, and the Arkansas legislative council before march 1, 2000. The taskforce is temporary and will expire on January 1, 2001.

INSURANCE

ACTUARIAL OPINIONS AND REPORTS

Act 453 (HB1347) - The act provides that actuarial formulas and assumptions certified by a qualified actuary are confidential and privileged when submitted to comply with a rate or form filing requirement of the Arkansas Insurance Department.

AGENT FEES

Act 384 (HB1364) - The act reduces the fees for Arkansas State insurance agent testing and deletes obsolete solicitor license fees.

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH INSURANCE POOL

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

Act 1356 (HB2045) - The act makes technical corrections to the "Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool Act".

CONTINUATION OF BENEFITS

BANKRUPTCY

Act 1592 (HB1988) - The act requires that insurance companies continue to provide group medical benefits to employees of bankrupt companies when the contract for insurance is cancelled due to bankruptcy.

DEREGULATION OF COMMERCIAL LINES INSURANCE

Act 458 (HB1441) - The act provides for the deregulation of commercial lines insurance.

DISCRIMINATION

Act 381 (HB1320) - The act adds the categories of "national origin" and "citizenship" to the definition of unfair discrimination when refusing to insure or refusing to continue to insure any individual.

DRIVING RECORDS OF INSUREDS/APPLICANTS

Act 1359 (HB2096) - The act allows insurers and rental car companies access to a driver's record.

EMPLOYEE LEASING FIRMS

SELLING OF INSURANCE

Act 1501 (HB2109) - An employee leasing firm or other individual, association, company, firm, partnership, or corporation who leases employees is prohibited from selling insurance except through a licensed resident or non-resident insurance agent.

INSURANCE

HEALTH CARRIERS

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Act 1200 (SB677) - The act requires that all health carriers and networks establish grievance systems and quality assessment and improvement systems. The act authorizes the Director of the Department of Health to implement and set penalties for violations of the act.

HEALTH INSURANCE

DENTAL COVERAGE

Act 1232 (HB2118) - The act requires that every health plan which provides dental benefits must provide benefits to covered persons through dentists who are not members of the carrier's provider network. The act requires the Insurance Commissioner to promulgate regulations to carry out the act.

DISCLOSURE PROHIBITED

Act 1302 (HB1648) - The act prohibits health insurance companies from requiring anyone to disclose a physician's Drug Enforcement Administration registry number.

DISCOUNT CARDS

Act 1406 (HB2015) - The act requires that health-related cash discount cards which are not insurance cards must expressly provide in bold and prominent type that the discounts are not insurance and that the cards are specifically authorized by an individual and separate contract with each health care provider listed in conjunction with the card. The act prohibits misleading deceptive or fraudulent claims about the discounts offered, regardless of the literal wording used. The act authorizes civil actions, to include injunctions, recovery of up to $10,000, treble damages, attorneys fees, costs and "other relief." The act sets a two year statute of limitations. The act exempts vision care services.

DUPLICATE COVERAGE

Act 624 (HB1224) - The act prohibits an insurer, hospital and medical service corporation, or health maintenance organization from reducing benefits for individual or group health plans if the reduction of benefits is due solely to the existence of additional contracts providing benefits.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Act 1200 (SB677) - The act requires that all health carriers and networks establish grievance systems and quality assessment and improvement systems. The act authorizes the Director of the Department of Health to implement and set penalties for violations of the act.

GROUP HEALTH PLANS

Act 1002 (SB877) - The act requires that group health plans for employers with more than ninety-nine employees must disclose information concerning number of claims, premiums and number of insureds.

HOSPICE

Act 922 (HB1801) - The act requires that all health insurance plans provide coverage for hospice care.

HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS

OUT-OF-NETWORK COVERAGE

Act 1469 (HB1703) - The Freedom of Choice Among Health Benefit Plans Act of 1999 requires health maintenance organizations which operate health provider networks to allow annual opportunities for covered persons to choose out-of-network coverage. That act limits any difference in benefit level between in and out-of network plans to no more than twenty-five percent and requires that employers make equal contributions for in an out-of-network plans. The act requires that benefits for out-of-network coverage be at least eighty percent of cost. The act requires the Insurance Commissioner to promulgate regulations to implement the act.

INSURANCE

HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS

REPORTS

Act 301 (HB1328) - The act clarifies the proper NAIC form of insurer annual reports and clarifies the annual and quarterly financial reports filings from HMOs.

RISK BASED CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS

Act 580 (HB1511) - The act requires health maintenance organizations to prepare and file risk based capital requirements plans with the Insurance Commisioner and sets out procedures for enforcing the requirement.

HOSPICE COVERAGE

Act 922 (HB1801) - The act requires that all health insurance plans provide coverage for hospice care.

INSURANCE AGENTS

OMNIBUS ACT

Act 657 (HB1787) - The act referred to as the "Agent Omnibus Act" amends numerous sections of the Insurance Code regarding "agents".

RENEWAL OF INSURANCE POLICIES

Act 115 (HB1254) - The act adds another exception to the provision in the Arkansas Code regarding the renewal of certain insurance policies after an agent's termination.

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

EARTHQUAKE AUTHORITY, ARKANSAS

Act 1343 (HB1835) - The act establishes the Arkansas Earthquake Authority, establishes a governing board for the authority and sets out the powers and duties of the authority and the board. The act requires the board to establish a Market Assistance Program, giving the Insurance Commissioner the power to restructure the program. The act authorizes the Insurance Commissioner to promulgate regulations to carry out the provisions of the act. The act provides for deposit of the authority's funds in the event the authority is terminated by either the General Assembly or the Insurance Commissioner.

ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES

Act 119 (HB1375) - The act allows the Insurance Commissioner to accept electronic, or electronic facsimile-transmitted, or computer-readable signatures.

EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS WITH A FINANCIAL INTEREST IN AN INSURANCE COMPANY

Act 304 (SB205) - The act permits the Insurance Commissioner to employ persons who have a direct or indirect financial interest in an insurance company, agency or transaction, subject to full disclosure.

PARTICIPATION OF CONVICTED FELONS IN INSURANCE BUSINESS

Act 313 (SB126) - The act allows a convicted felon to participate in the insurance business if pardoned, if the conviction was expunged, or with the written consent of the Insurance Commissioner.

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

REDUCTION OF FEES

Act 118 (HB1333) - The act reduces from $1.00 per page to $0.25 per page the fee charged by the Insurance Department for copies of documents and records on file.

WORKPAPERS AND ANALYSES

Act 348 (HB1350) - The act provides that all workpapers, financial statement analyses, ratio calculations, and any other materials produced by Insurance Department financial examiners, or analysts, or documents submitted or disclosed to the Insurance Department by an insurer in response to a request from an Insurance Department financial examiner, or analyst, during the course of reviewing or investigating the financial solvency, condition or affairs of an insurer, shall be confidential and not subject to subpoena.

INSURANCE

INSURANCE HOLDING COMPANY REGULATORY ACT

FILING EXEMPTIONS

Act 327 (SB152) - The act adds new filing exemptions to the Insurance Code for service contracts reviewed under holding company laws, the Managing General Agents law, and other laws.

INSURANCE POLICY HOLDERS

LIABILITY FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES

Act 135 (SB154) - The act provides that insurance policy holders shall not be liable for the attorneys' fees incurred by insurance companies in the defense of cases in which the insurance company is found not liable for the loss.

INSURERS

ANNUAL REPORTS

Act 301 (HB1328) - The act clarifies the proper NAIC form of insurer annual reports and clarifies the annual and quarterly financial reports filings from HMOs.

COMBINATION OF TYPES OF INSURANCE

Act 645 (HB1278) - The act clarifies the amount of security deposits necessary for continued licensure of insurers writing combinations of types of insurance as reflected on each insurer's certificate of authority.

REGISTERED INSURERS REFILING

Act 454 (HB1363) - The act requires registered insurers to annually refile an amended and restated registration statement.

MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE

ISSUANCE BY RENTAL CAR AGENCIES

Act 943 (HB1960) - The act authorizes the Insurance Commissioner to issue a limited license to a car rental company which authorizes the car rental company to offer or sell insurance only in connection with and incidental to the rental of vehicles.

SETTLEMENT OF CLAIM

Act 1291 (HB2233) - The act provides that if an insurer settles a claim for damages to an automobile as a total loss, the insurer shall include with the payment an itemized list stating the amount attributable to the value of the automobile and the amount attributable to the sales tax on an automobile of that value.

WAIVER OF INCREASED LIMITS

Act 899 (HB1150) - The act requires motor vehicle insurers to offer increased third party liability coverage and further provides that the increased coverage must be rejected in writing by the insured or the applicant.

MOTORBOATS OR PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

LIABILITY INSURANCE

Act 468 (SB238) - The act requires owners of motorboats of more than fifty (50) horsepower or personal watercraft to maintain liablity insurance coverage of at least fifty thousand dollars ($50,000) per occurrence.

OMNIBUS ACT

Act 881 (SB785) - An omnibus act amending 24 sections of the Arkansas Insurance code.

PHENYLKETONURIA

COVERAGE REQUIRED

Act 1113 (HB1183) - The act requires health care plans to provide coverage for medically necessary foods for the treatment of a covered person afflicted with phenylketornuria and provides for an income tax credit to families, up to two thousand four hundred dollars per year per child for the cost for those foods.

INSURANCE

PREMIUM TAXES

STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

Act 977 (HB1416) - The act provides that no assessment of any insurance premium tax nor credit or refund of an overpayment of any insurance premium tax shall be made after five years after the date the tax report was required to be filed or the date the tax report was filed, whichever is later.

PREPAID FUNERAL CONTRACTS

FITNESS AND TRUSTWORTHINESS OF APPLICANTS

Act 347 (HB1348) - The act requires applicants for a permit or renewal of a permit to sell prepaid funeral benefits must be deemed competent, trustworthy and financially responsible by the Insurance Commissioner.

RISK BASED CAPITAL ACT

EXEMPTION AMOUNTS

Act 625 (HB1228) - The act expands the definition of "property or casualty insurer" to include farmers' mutual aid associations and fraternal benefit societies. It also gives the Insurance Commissioner the authority to exempt certain domestic insurers from the Risk Based Capital Act.

UNDERWRITING

USE OF CONSUMER REPORTS

Act 1535 (SB524) - The act revises the law on the use of consumer reports on a person's credit worthiness in the underwriting of insurance.

VALUED POLICY LAW

Act 1069 (SB219) - The act revises the valued policy law to apply to property insurance policies other than for flood and earthquake.

LABOR

BOILERS

BOILER INSPECTIONS

Act 982 (HB1868) - An omnibus act that amends various sections of the boiler inspection law.

BOILER WORKERS

Act 141 (SB244) - The act authorizes the Department of Labor to issue restricted lifetime licenses to boiler inspectors, operators, sellers, installers and repairmen who are 65 years of age or older and who have at least twelve years' experience.

DRUG FREE WORKPLACES

Act 1552 (SB773) - The act authorizes the Director of the Workers' Health and Safety Division of the Workers' Compensation Commission to adopt rules to establish a voluntary program for drug free workplaces. The act sets standards and procedures for employers to use in testing employees for certain drugs. The act authorizes employers who enroll in and follow the procedures of the voluntary program to terminate employees who test positive for the use of certain drugs.

EMPLOYMENT REFERENCES

Act 1474 (HB1820) - The act provides current and former business employers with protection for providing job information about current or former employees to prospective employers.

INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

Act 1036 (SB363) - The act establishes an income tax credit to certain employers in an amount equal to 30% of the cost of tuition reimbursed by an employer to a full-time permanent employee for the cost of tuition, books and fees for a program of undergraduate or post-graduate education from an accredited institution of post-secondary education located in Arkansas.

LABOR

MINIMUM WAGE AND OVERTIME EXEMPTIONS

CAMPS

Act 1369 (HB2182) - The act exempts from minimum wage and overtime requirements any recreational or educational camp that operates for seven or fewer months per year.

MINIMUM WAGE LAW

ENFORCEMENT

Act 981 (HB1867) - The act provides that the Department of Labor shall not be required to pay court costs or give bond for court costs when enforcing the state's minimum wage law.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION

Act 1055 (SB839) - The act provides for additional unemployment compensation contribution assessments for employers with a contribution rate of six percent for two calendar years.

OMNIBUS ACT

Act 1116 (HB1713) - An omnibus act that amends various provisions of the Arkansas Employment Security Law.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

CHANGE OF PHYSICIAN

Act 1167 (SB965) - The act provides the method by which and condition under which an employee may change physicians under the Workers' Compensation Law.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT REINSURANCE

Act 583 (HB1519) - The act authorizes counties which provide worker's compensation coverage through self-funded groups to provide excess reserves through purchase of reinsurance from County Reinsurance, Limited.

DISABILITY BENEFITS

Act 1168 (SB967) - The act provides that permanent total disability benefits under the Workers' Compensation Law will be paid during the period of permanent total disability until the employee reaches age 65 except that with respect to permanent total disabilities resulting from injuries which occur after 60 years of age the permanent total disability benefits will payable for a period of 260 weeks.

EMPLOYEE'S RESIDENCE

Act 20 (SB86) - The act exempts workers at the employer's residence from the definition of employee.

LETTERS OF CREDIT

Act 1265 (SB903) - The act amends the Uniform Commercial Code - Letters of Credit code section regarding the expiration of letters of credit to make it not applicable to letters of credit issued at any time to the Workers' Compensation Commission.

PERMANENT TOTAL DISABILITY

Act 1168 (SB967) - The act provides that permanent total disability benefits under the Workers' Compensation Law will be paid during the period of permanent total disability until the employee reaches age 65 except that with respect to permanent total disabilities resulting from injuries which occur after 60 years of age the permanent total disability benefits will payable for a period of 260 weeks.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

DRIVERS LICENSES OF OFFICERS

Act 1004 (SB914) - The act provides that drivers licenses of law enforcement officers may indicate post office addresses instead of residence addresses.

LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING, COMMISSION ON

IMMUNITY

Act 949 (HB2054) - The act provides that members and employees of the Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training who disclose information pertaining to the termination of employment of a law enforcement officer are immune from civil liability for disclosing to subsequent employing agencies information required by Arkansas Code 12-9-602 regarding the termination.

MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS

ENFORCEMENT OF WATERCRAFT LAWS

Act 146 (HB1195) - The act authorizes municipal police officers to enforce the laws regarding watercraft.

POLICE CORPS PLANNING COMMISSION, ARKANSAS

MEETINGS

Act 1223 (HB2007) - The act provides that the Arkansas Police Corps Planning Commission shall meet at the call of the chairman.

POLICE OFFICERS' PENSION AND RELIEF FUND

DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUES

Act 1394 (HB1412) - The act sets forth the formula for distributing certain insurance premium taxes into the Firemen's and Police Officers' Pension and Relief Fund.

STATE POLICE COMMISSION, ARKANSAS

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

Act 149 (HB1354) - The act provides for the members of the Arkansas State Police Commission to be appointed from the Congressional Districts.

STATE POLICE, DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS

ADVOCACY CENTERS

Act 1575 (SB897) - The act authorizes the Department of Arkansas State Police to contract with or provide grants to childrens' advocacy centers.

UNIFORMS

Act 1332 (HB1558) - The act provides that if funds are available, the director of the Department of Arkansas State Police may increase the uniform allowance to not more than two thousand four hundred dollars per annum for each state police colonel, lieutenant colonel, major, captain, lieutenant, sergeant, corporal, trooper first class, drug diversion manager, drug diversion investigator, and trooper.

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

EXEMPTION

Act 1472 (HB1789) - The act provides that certain law enforcement officers who are exempt from training requirements because of the date of employment shall not lose that exemption because of a subsequent termination of employment.

LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS BOARD

DRIVERS

OUT-OF-STATE EXAMINATIONS

Act 224 (HB1233) - The act authorizes the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board to accept reciprocal states' transportation and delivery examinations for transport drivers of liquefied petroleum gas.

LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS BOARD

MEMBERS AND DUTIES

Act 1577 (SB907) - The act amends various sections of the Arkansas Code pertaining to the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board.

OFFICE

Act 225 (HB1234) - The act locates the office of the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board in Pulaski county.

SAFETY INSPECTIONS

Act 223 (HB1232) - The act requires annual safety inspections of all transport delivery trucks operated by holders of class five permits for liquefied petroleum gas businesses.

LOCAL LEGISLATION

ANNEXATION

NO ANNEXATION OF LANDS WITHIN ONE-HALF MILE OF A STATE PARK EXTENDED

Act 1495 (HB2066) - The act extends the ban on annexing lands in counties of 350,000 or more within one-half mile of a state park to include the lands on the opposite side of and south of an existing railroad right-of-way from the state park.

COUNTIES WITH A POPULATION OVER 250,000

COUNTY INMATES

Act 754 (HB1421) - The act provides that the sheriff of counties with a population in excess of 250,000 persons may determine if persons sentenced to the county jail will serve their sentence on electronic monitoring or on weekends if not contrary to court orders.

CRITTENDEN COUNTY

DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS

Act 1038 (SB383) - The act increases the maximum combined salaries for the deputy prosecuting attorneys for Crittenden County.

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT NORTH/SOUTH

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY CONTINGENT EXPENSE ALLOWANCE

Act 1274 (HB1365) - The act provides the amount each county in the Eighth Judicial District North and South will contribute to their respective Prosecuting Attorneys for the contingent expense funds.

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT-NORTH

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Act 35 (HB1069) - The act makes the Eighth Judicial District-North Prosecuting Attorney a Division B Prosecutor.

FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

NEW JUDGESHIP

Act 1151 (SB436) - The act creates a new circuit-chancery-juvenile judgeship in the Fifth Judicial District effective January 1, 2000.

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

NEW JUDGESHIP

Act 1522 (SB292) - The act creates a new circuit-chancery judgeship in the First Judicial District subject to approval by the Judicial Resources Assessment Committee.

IZARD COUNTY

SHERIFF AND COLLECTOR

Act 1228 (HB2048) - The act separates the offices of Sheriff and Tax Collector in Izard County.

LOCAL LEGISLATION

LOGAN COUNTY

SHERIFF AND COLLECTOR

Act 1103 (HB2025) - The act provides that effective January 1, 2001, the offices of Sheriff and Tax Collector in Logan County shall be separate offices.

NORTH LITTLE ROCK

MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

Act 1505 (HB2177) - The act prescribes a term of office of six (6) years for the board of commissioners in the municipal improvement districts in cities of the first class with a population of between 61,500 and 62,000 persons according to the 1990 federal decennial census (North Little Rock). Previously, there was no specific term for the commissioners. Also, after July 1, 1999, the city council will have the power to remove any member of the board upon the written petition of twenty-five percent (25%) of the owners of the real property located within the district.

PULASKI COUNTY

CONSTABLES

Act 6 (SB19) - The act prohibits constables in Pulaski County from appointing deputies.

SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT EAST/WEST

NAME CHANGE

Act 456 (HB1434) - The act changes the name of the Seventeenth Judicial District-East to the Seventeeth Judicial District and changes the name of the Seventeenth Judicial District-West to the Twenty-Third Judicial District.

SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT-EAST

DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS

Act 1001 (SB807) - The act sets the salary and expenses of the deputy prosecuting attorneys and other personnel of the Seventeenth Judicial District-East.

SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT NORTH/SOUTH

NAME CHANGE

Act 7 (SB16) - The act changes the name of the Seventh Judicial District-North to the Twenty-Second Judicial District and changes the name of the Seventh Judicial District-South to the Seventh Judicial District.

SHERIFF AND COLLECTOR

LINCOLN COUNTY

Act 633 (HB1712) - The act separates the office of county sheriff-collector into two (2) separate offices of sheriff and tax collector in Lincoln County effective with the General Election in 2000 and taking office on January 1, 2001.

MADISON COUNTY

Act 201 (HB1297) - The act separates the office of county sheriff-collector into two (2) separate offices of sheriff and collector in Madison County effective with the General Election in 2000 and taking office on January 1, 2001.

SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT ORDERS

Act 1245 (HB2227) - The act allows a Sixth Judicial District probate judge to hear involuntary commitment proceedings initiated in other judicial districts.

STAFF OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Act 1234 (HB2137) - The act sets the staff positions and the salaries of the Sixth Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney Office personnel.

LOCAL LEGISLATION

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

NEW CIRCUIT-CHANCERY JUDGESHIP

Act 1355 (HB2016) - The act creates a new circuit-chancery judgeship in the Third Judicial District effective January 1, 2000, subject to the approval of the Judicial Resources Assessment Committee.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY STAFF

Act 1242 (HB2205) - The act provides for the contingent expense allowance and staff positions of the Third Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney's office.

THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

CIRCUIT JUDGESHIP

Act 5 (SB27) - The act converts one (1) circuit judgeship in the 13th Judicial District to a circuit/chancery judgeship.

TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY APPOINTMENT OF INVESTIGATORS

Act 1238 (HB2187) - The act authorizes the prosecuting attorney of the Twentieth Judicial District to appoint certified law enforcement officers as investigators.

TWENTY-SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Act 1419 (SB754) - The act authorizes the Prosecuting Attorney of the Twenty-Second Judicial District to employ investigators.

MANUFACTURED HOMES

TRANSPORTATION

OMNIBUS AMENDMENTS

Act 780 (SB543) - The act amends various sections of the Arkansas Code pertaining to the transportation of manufactured homes.

MILITARY

AIR FORCE OFFICERS

ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS

Act 641 (HB1760) - The act adds Air Force officers to the list of commissioned officers who may administer an oath of office to a civil or military officer.

DRIVER'S LICENSE RECORD ACCESS

Act 111 (HB1196) - The act permits Arkansas military recruiters to access information in the central driver records file concerning the name, age, and current address of all drivers over the age of sixteen and under the age of twenty-six. A person may deny access to his information.

NATIONAL GUARD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

REPEALED

Act 1139 (SB793) - The act abolishes the Arkansas National Guard Scholarship Program.

VETERANS

POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

Act 917 (HB1698) - The act establishes the third Friday in September as the POW/MIA Recognition Day. The day is not a legal holiday but a memorial day to be commemorated by the issuance of an appropriate proclamation by the Governor.

VETERANS' COMMISSION, ARKANSAS

Act 634 (HB1726) - The act changes the name of the Governor's Commission on Veterans' Affairs to the Arkansas Veterans' Commission.

MILITARY

VETERANS

VETERANS' LICENSE PLATES

Act 916 (HB1697) - The act provides for the issuance of special World War II veteran license plates, special Korean War veteran license plates, special Vietnam veteran license plates, and special Persian Gulf veteran license plates.

MOTOR VEHICLES

CAR RENTAL COMPANIES

DRIVING RECORDS OF INSUREDS/APPLICANTS

Act 1359 (HB2096) - The act allows insurers and rental car companies access to a driver's record.

CERTIFICATE OF TITLE

ISSUED WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PURCHASE

Act 1307 (HB1937) - The act amends the current law requiring purchasers of motor vehicles to apply for registration and issuance of certificates of title. It provides that the vehicles must be registered within thirty (30) days from the date of purchase (instead of the previous 20 day time period).

RELEASE OF LIENS WITHIN 10 BUSINESS DAYS

Act 1305 (HB1808) - The act requires that upon the satisfaction of any lien or encumbrance on a motor vehicle, the lienholder whose lien is satisfied shall execute a release of the lien within ten (10) business days after payment in full by certified funds and within thirty (30) business days after payment in full by non-certified funds (instead of calendar days). Any lienholder who fails to send the releases as required shall pay the person satisfying the lien $25.00 for the each five (5) business days after expiration of the time period.

DRIVER'S LICENSE

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Act 1004 (SB914) - The act provides that drivers licenses of law enforcement officers may indicate post office addresses instead of residence addresses.

MILITARY RECRUITER'S ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Act 111 (HB1196) - The act permits Arkansas military recruiters to access information in the central driver records file concerning the name, age, and current address of all drivers over the age of sixteen and under the age of twenty-six. A person may deny access to his information.

PENALTIES FOR DRIVING ON SUSPENDED OR REVOKED LICENSE

Act 1018 (HB1751) - The act makes it illegal for any person who is a resident and whose driver's license has been suspended or revoked to drive a motor vehicle while his or her license is suspended or revoked. An offender may be sentenced to not less than 2 days nor more than 6 months in jail and fined not more than $500.00.

RESTRICTED LICENSES

Act 25 (HB1079) - The act provides that persons between the ages of 16 and 18 years old must have been issued restricted driver licenses for at least six (6) months before being issued regular driver licenses. It further allows the issuance of instruction permits for six (6) months (previously, it was issued for 60 days) and they may be renewed for another six (6) months.

DRIVING OFFENSES GENERALLY

OMNIBUS REVISIONS

Act 1077 (SB521) - The act amends numerous provisions of the Code regarding penalties for alcohol-related driving offenses, fictitious driver's licenses, and refusal to submit to a test to determine alcohol content. It further makes changes and corrections to the administrative driver's license suspension procedures for commercial and non-commercial driver's licenses and restricted permits.

MOTOR VEHICLES

LEASES

Act 1059 (SB885) - The act requires certain disclosures in motor vehicle leases, establishes maximum fees which may be charged for excess wear and excess use, prescribes prohibited practices, and establishes remedies for the violation of the act.

LICENSE PLATES

ANTIQUE MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE PLATE

Act 102 (HB1012) - The act repeals the requirement that persons applying for a historic or special interest vehicle license plate must have registered at least one other vehicle with regular plates which is used for regular transportation.

CIVIL AIR PATROL LICENSE PLATE

Act 1076 (SB518) - The act eliminates the initial $35.00 fee for Civil Air Patrol license plates.

DUCKS UNLIMITED LICENSE PLATE

Act 23 (SB137) - The act provides for the issuance of special motor vehicle license plate for Ducks Unlimited members.

GAME AND FISH COMMISSION LICENSE PLATE

Act 1566 (SB858) - The act provides for the issuance of special motor vehicle license plates for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission for the purpose of sponsoring college scholarships related to the field of conservation, funding land purchases for the benefit of the public, and for conservation education programs.

REPLACEMENT MOTOR VEHICLES

Act 1106 (HB2091) - The act provides that when the owner of a motor vehicle elects to assign the license plate to a replacement motor vehicle the owner may display the license on the replacement vehicle prior to registering the replacement vehicle.

STREET ROD LICENSE PLATE

Act 1327 (HB1145) - The act provides for the issuance of special motor vehicle license plates for street rods. "Street rod" means a modified antique motor vehicle produced by an American manufacturer in 1948 or earlier which has undergone some type of modification, including the modernization of the engine, transmission, drivetrain, and interior refinements.

TRANSFER TO OR FROM LEASED VEHICLES

Act 461 (HB1559) - The act authorizes the transfer of motor vehicle registration and license plates to or from leased noncommercial motor vehicles to or from another motor vehicle. Further, the notification of vehicle registration renewal is changed from being mailed 60 days ahead to being mailed not any less than thirty (30) days prior to registration expiration.

VETERANS

Act 916 (HB1697) - The act provides for the issuance of special World War II veteran license plates, special Korean War veteran license plates, special Vietnam veteran license plates, and special Persian Gulf veteran license plates.

MOTOR VEHICLE COMMISSION

OMNIBUS ACT

Act 1042 (SB484) - An omnibus act amending various sections of the Arkansas Motor Vehicle Commission Act.

MOTOR VEHICLE LIABILITY INSURANCE

MINIMUM LIMIT

Act 1527 (SB385) - The act amends several provisions of the Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act and other laws to raise the minimum limits of proof of financial responsibility to operate a motor vehicle and to raise the minimum limits for motor vehicle liability insurance. The minimum limit for property damage coverage was increased from $15,000 to $25,000.

MOTOR VEHICLES

OBSTRUCTION OF WINDOWS

Act 1251 (HB2288) - The act prohibits the placement of any nontransparent material upon the front windshield, side wings, side, or rear windows of a vehicle if it would obstruct the operator's view or the safe operation of the vehicle.

OVERWEIGHT PERMITS

HAULING CROSSTIES AUTHORIZED

Act 1511 (HB2245) - The act authorizes the Highway Commission to issue a 1 year permit for five-axle vehicles to move crossties from their first point of processing to the point at which they shall undergo creosote processing. No more than five (5) special permits may be issued to the same person during the same calendar year.

SEALED CONTAINERIZED CARGO UNITS

Act 1571 (SB880) - The act authorizes the Highway Commission to issue special permits for the movement of sealed containerized cargo units upon highways. Containerized cargo units must be part of international trade and be moved on the highways due to importation from, or exportation to, another country. Vehicles operating under a sealed containerized cargo unit permit shall not exceed total gross vehicle weight of ninety thousand pounds.

PARKING

HANDICAPPED PARKING

Act 1503 (HB2142) - The act repeals that portion of the definition of a person with a disability for purposes of the Access To Parking For Persons With Disabilities Act which includes persons severely limited in their ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition and adds a definition of "access aisle." The act raises the fines for illegal parking in handicap spaces and apportions the fines between the Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities and the local municipality in which the violation occurred. The act repeals a provision allowing a private agency to restrict police entry to enforce of the act. The act requires the minimum number of parking spaces to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The act repeals a provision regarding parking spaces under the jurisdiction of a public agency.

LOCAL ENFORCEMENT

Act 1247 (HB2250) - First and second class cities and incorporated towns to contract with private sector entities to enforce municipal parking ordinances and to issue citations and collect fines.

LOCAL REGULATION

Act 1199 (SB664) - Subtitle 4 of Title 27 of the Arkansas Code pertaining to motor vehicular traffic shall not be deemed to prevent local authorities from establishing districts for the purpose of limiting the time, place and manner of public parking in designated areas.

RACING FACILITIES

DEFINITION

Act 674 (SB408) - The act redefines "motor vehicle racing facility" to mean any facility designed and used for competitive racing by automobiles or trucks which are modified for racing.

REGISTRATION

NONRESIDENTS

Act 912 (HB1647) - The act provides that nonresidents who have been physically present in Arkansas for six months must register their motor vehicles with the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration.

STAGGERED

Act 385 (SB1518) - The act allows for staggered renewal dates for vehicle registration on commercial trucks and trailers, semitrailers, etc. Previously, all these registrations were renewed on July 1 of each year. It allows the Department of Finance & Administration Director to assign the registration to a particular month upon request.

MOTOR VEHICLES

SALES AND USE TAX

EXEMPTION FOR THE SERVICE OF RETREADING TIRES

Act 1110 (HB2236) - The act exempts the service of retreading tires which are sold directly to a consumer from sales and use tax.

SALVAGE TITLE LAW

DISCLOSURE

Act 1303 (HB1714) - The act amends the law which requires motor vehicle dealers to disclose the motor vehicle salvage title to any prospective buyer or purchaser prior to sale. When the dealer does not disclose a "salvage title" designation, the buyer may elect to render the sale voidable within sixty (60) days after the sales transaction, instead of the previous thirty (30) days.

Act 1572 (SB887) - The act amends the motor vehicle salvage title law to provide that when a dealer fails to disclose a "salvage title" designation, the buyer may elect to render the sale voidable within 60 days after the sale. Previously, this was 30 days. However, it also permits the dealer to make a full refund to the buyer after such an election and have no further liability to the buyer. It also clarifies that the vehicle title shall carry the salvage branding permanently.

TOWING AND RECOVERY BOARD

BOARD MEMBERSHIP INCREASED

Act 1279 (HB1770) - The act changes the membership of the Towing and Recovery Board to increase its size from 7 to 9 members by adding two (2) members to represent the "consent-only" towing businesses. It also makes the time for tagging of towed vehicles uniform by allowing vehicles parked within 3 feet of the curb to be towed within 24 hours from the time it is tagged. Further, the act gives the Board the authority to levy a civil penalty against licensed towing firms who fail to give owners the proper notices required by law.

USED MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Act 1040 (SB431) - The act requires used motor vehicle dealers to attend a three hour educational seminar annually as a condition to renewal of their dealer's license.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES

FARM PRODUCTS TAG EXPANDED

Act 1443 (HB2020) - The act expands the definition of unprocessed farm products which can be considered when issuing "farm products or natural resources" truck tags. It specifies that unprocessed farm products shall be considered noncommercial hauling. It also specifies that farmers may transport cotton seed from the gin or warehouse to the first point of sale under this special classification.

VEHICULAR HOMICIDE

INCREASED PENALTY

Act 1112 (HB2194) - The act increases the penalty for vehicular homicide from a Class D to a Class C felony.

WATERCRAFT

REGULATION

Act 756 (HB1537) - The act regulates the operation of watercraft less than sixteen feet in length and propelled by a water-jet pump or other machinery as its primary source of motor propulsion which is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing, or kneeling on, rather than being operated by a person sitting or standing inside the vessel.

MOTOR VEHICLES

WRECKED VEHICLES

DEBRIS REMOVAL

Act 82 (HB1244) - The act requires people removing damaged or wrecked vehicles to clear debris from any affected roadway.

MUSEUMS

COTTON MUSEUM

ESTABLISHED

Act 1121 (SB594) - The act provides for the establishment of the Arkansas Cotton Museum in Lee County.

COUNTY MUSEUM COMMISSION

NUMBER OF MEMBERS CHANGED

Act 1372 (HB2206) - The act authorizes the county quorum court in those counties with a county museum to specify the number of members on the county museum commission. The museum will be under the management and control of a county museum commission. The county museum commission shall consist of 3, 6, or 9 members to be appointed by the county judge, subject to confirmation and approval of the quorum court. Previously, it consisted of only 7 members. The size of the commission shall be determined by the quorum court, in collaboration with the museum director and the chairman of the commission, and with regard to the population of the county.

MID-AMERICA MUSEUM

TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

Act 944 (HB1970) - The act authorizes the Department of Parks and Tourism to transfer title to the Mid-America Museum to either the Garland County Community College or the Hot Springs Advertising and Promotion Commission.

NOTARY PUBLICS

REVOCATION OF COMMISSION

GROUNDS FOR REVOCATION

Act 1187 (SB469) - The act provides that the Secretary of State may deny the application for appointment or reappointment as a notary public or revoke the notary public's commission for reasons stated in the act.

PEST CONTROL

LICENSES

SURETY BONDS

Act 845 (SB771) - The act increases from $5,000 to $50,000 the surety bond requirement for persons licensed to conduct pest control business.

PLUMBING

APPRENTICESHIP COMMITTEE, STATE

STIPEND

Act 1235 (HB2150) - The act allows members of the State Apprenticeship Committee to receive a fifty dollar stipend for attending meetings.

POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

Act 917 (HB1698) - The act establishes the third Friday in September as the POW/MIA Recognition Day. The day is not a legal holiday but a memorial day to be commemorated by the issuance of an appropriate proclamation by the Governor.

PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS

PRIVATE SECURITY AGENCIES LAWS

Act 1493 (HB2062) - The act amends various sections of the private investigators and private security agencies law.

PROPERTY

ABANDONED PROPERTY

Act 850 (SB405) - The act repeals the Uniform Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act and substitutes a comprehensive new law regarding the disposition of unclaimed property.

INTANGIBLE PROPERTY

Act 720 (SB498) - The act redefines the terms "intangible property" and "credit memos" for purposes of the Uniform Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act.

REAL ESTATE TAXES

HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX REFUND

Act 900 (HB1247) - The act amends the homestead property tax refund law to provide that taxpayers with a household income of $25,000 or less for tax year 2000 (previously $16,000) and taxpayers with a household income of $30,000 or less for tax year 2001 and thereafter, shall be entitled to a refund of a portion of the ad valorem taxes paid on the taxpayers homestead.

PAYMENT ON TRANSFER

Act 994 (SB157) - The act allows a closing agent or abstract company to pay real estate taxes on a parcel of property at the time the ownership of the property is transferred.

PROTECTION ORDERS

CONTENTS OF FORM

Act 662 (HB1736) - The act modifies the petition for order of protection form to provide language requesting the court to prohibit the respondent, directly or through an agent, from contacting the petitioner or victim except under specified conditions named in the court order.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

DEATH BENEFITS IF KILLED ON-DUTY

FORESTRY COMMISSION EMPLOYEES INCLUDED

Act 57 (SB63) - The act includes State Forestry Commission employees in the additional death benefits for employees who are killed while fighting fires or other hazardous activities while on-duty. It allows the Claims Commission to award the spouses and children of deceased employees an additional seventy-five thousand dollars ($75,000).

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SURVIVING CHILDREN

Act 1034 (SB156) - The act provides scholarships for surviving children of Department of Correction employees, volunteer firemen and state forestry employees, state parks employees, and public school teachers killed in the line of duty.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Act 22 (SB95) - The act exempts from the definition of employment under the Public Employees Social Security law any services which have been voluntarily excluded.

STATE EMPLOYEES

CAREER LADDER INCENTIVE

Act 1061 (SB922) - The act provides that the Department of Finance and Administration is authorized to develop and implement a career ladder incentive program for employees of all state agencies, boards, commissions, and institutions of higher education covered by the Uniform Classification and Compensation Act.

CATASTROPHIC ILLNESS

Act 1176 (HB2039) - The act adds family members of state employees to the definition of catastrophic illness for purposes of the catastrophic leave bank program, changes the scope of coverage for nonfaculty employees of higher education and limits benefits to the amount of compensation being received by the employee at the onset of the illness or injury.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

STATE EMPLOYEES

DISASTER SERVICE VOLUNTEER LEAVE

Act 489 (HB1462) - The act provides that state employees certified as disaster service volunteers may be granted paid leave not to exceed fifteen working days during any calendar year instead of any twelve-month period.

POLITICAL FREEDOM

Act 658 (HB1446) - The act creates the Public Employees Political Freedom Act. Under this Act it is unlawful for any public employer to discipline, threaten to discipline, to reprimand, either orally or written, or to place any notation in a public employee's personnel file disciplining or reprimanding the employee, or otherwise discriminate against a public employee because the public employee exercised the right to communicate with an elected public official as granted under the act.

SICK LEAVE

Act 1127 (HB1291) - The act provides that upon retirement, any employee of any agency of the State of Arkansas shall receive compensation for accumulated unused sick leave based upon the number of hours accumulated. However, the act provides that in no event shall an employee receive an amount that exceeds seven thousand five hundred dollars upon retirement. The act also provides that state employees shall be entitled on March 1, 2001 to a lump sum payment of twenty dollars per day for each day of unused sick leave which was accrued during calendar year 2000.

WHISTLE-BLOWER ACT

Act 1523 (SB294) - The act establishes the Arkansas Whistle-Blower Act to protect public employees from discharge or retaliation because the employee reports in good faith the existence of any waste of public funds or a violation of state law, rule or regulation.

PUBLIC PROPERTY

AWARD OF CONTRACTS

Act 1496 (HB2069) - The Act provides that prime contractors, as a condition to perform construction work for and in the State of Arkansas, shall use no other subcontractors when the subcontractors' portion of the project is twenty thousand dollars ($20,000) or more except those licensed by the Contractors Licensing Board and qualified in: (1) Mechanical, indicative of heating, air conditioning, and ventilating; (2) Plumbing: (3) Electrical, indicative of wiring and illuminating fixtures, and (4) Roofing and sheet metal work, indicative of roofing application.

BUILDING SERVICES, STATE

ACQUISITIONS AND SUPERVISION

Act 1173 (HB1702) - The act amends various provisions of the code pertaining to the State Building Services.

BLIND FACILITY VENDORS

Act 750 (HB1166) - The act provides an exception to the termination of leases for facility vendors in state buildings operated by those other than the blind. Specifically, leases executed under 22-2-114 prior to June 1, 1999 shall not be considered a contract or agreement within this subchapter if the property is owned by State Building Services.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Act 494 (HB1644) - The act requires the State Building Services to establish and maintain a list of contractors desiring written notice of invitation for bids and also establishes a fee not to exceed twenty-five dollars to be paid by the contractors wishing to receive the notice.

PUBLIC PROPERTY

PUBLIC WORKS

BIDS

Act 1309 (HB1950) - The act decreases the amount of the bid bond for public works projects which is required to be submitted with the bid. The amount was decreased from fifty thousand dollars to twenty-five thousand dollars.

Act 1310 (HB1954) - The act provides that no contract providing for the making of major repairs, alterations or for the erection of buildings or other structures, or for making other permanent improvements shall be entered into by the state, any agency thereof, county, municipality, school district, or other local taxing unit with any contractor in instances where all estimated costs of the work shall exceed the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars ($75,000) unless the bid documents contain statements which encourage the participation of small, minority, and women business enterprises.

COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Act 675 (SB440) - The act raises from $30,000 to $50,000 the threshold for requiring competitive bids for public works projects in cities, counties, and school districts and provides that in the case of a state agency the bid of the apparent responsible low bidder must be accepted if within 25% (formerly 20%) of the amount appropriated.

OMNIBUS REVISIONS

Act 776 (SB471) - The act amends various sections of the Arkansas Code pertaining to public works.

SUBCONTRACTORS

Act 1250 (HB2280) - The act provides that a subcontractor under a public works contract may subcontract a portion of the listed work but may not subcontract the work in its entirety.

PURCHASING LAWS

BIDS

Act 219 (SB26) - The act requires a bidder to include a cashier's check in the amount of 1/10 of the bid with the bid for the purchase of state lands, for state agency construction contracts and for public construction bids.

STATE AGENCIES FACILITIES ACQUISITION ACT

Act 1182 (SB289) - The act amends various provisions of the State Agencies Facilities Acquisition Act.

WAR MEMORIAL STADIUM

STATE FUNDING

Act 24 (SB5) - The act repeals Arkansas Code 22-3-1009 pertaining to the limitation of liability of the state and therefore funds of the state may now be used for the maintenance and operation of War Memorial Stadium or for payment of any bonds payable from the revenues of the stadium.

RACING

DOG RACING

DISPOSITION OF WAGERING MONEY

Act 1509 (HB2213) - The act amends the law relating to the disposition of dog racing wagers to clarify the circumstances under which the distribution of the wagers apply to live, on-premises racing and to simulcast racing.

EMPLOYEE INSURANCE

Act 1585 (SB715) - The act requires the dog-racing franchise holder to set aside moneys for the use and benefit of its employees, for the purpose of maintaining health insurance benefits. The act repeals a conflicting provision of the code.

RACING

DOG RACING

PAYOUTS

Act 473 (SB323) - The act authorizes the Racing Commission, in the event of a minus pool, to establish the minimum payout on winning wagers.

SIMULCASTING

Act 473 (SB323) - The act provides that the Racing Commission is to adopt regulations permitting the conduct of pari-mutuel or certificate system of wagering on either horse or greyhound races shown live or in any other manner approved by the commission to or from the franchise holder's premises.

HORSE RACING

EIA TEST

Act 10 (HB1162) - The act authorizes the Racing Commission to require horses claimed in claiming races to have a negative EIA test within the previous twelve months, rather than six months, and to allow such tests to be conducted after the race and after title and risk of loss have passed to the buyer. The act also authorizes the Racing Commission, in the event of a minus pool, to establish the minimum payout on winning wagers. The act also provides that with the prior approval of the Racing Commission a horse racing franchise holder may enter into agreements with other parties to allow its patrons to wager on races run at other racetracks which are shown live or in any other manner approved by the commission at locations on the grounds of the Arkansas horse race track and the franchise holder may enter into agreements whereby its races are shown live or in any other manner approved by the commission at other race tracks and locations.

PATRONAGE AND TOURISM

Act 1526 (SB384) - The act amends code provisions regarding horse racing to allow the franchise holder to use set-aside monies for promotions to encourage patronage and tourism.

PAYOUTS

Act 10 (HB1162) - The act authorizes the Racing Commission to require horses claimed in claiming races to have a negative EIA test within the previous twelve months, rather than six months, and to allow such tests to be conducted after the race and after title and risk of loss have passed to the buyer. The act also authorizes the Racing Commission, in the event of a minus pool, to establish the minimum payout on winning wagers. The act also provides that with the prior approval of the Racing Commission a horse racing franchise holder may enter into agreements with other parties to allow its patrons to wager on races run at other racetracks which are shown live or in any other manner approved by the commission at locations on the grounds of the Arkansas horse race track and the franchise holder may enter into agreements whereby its races are shown live or in any other manner approved by the commission at other race tracks and locations.

PURSE AND CONSTRUCTION FUND

Act 1576 (SB904) - The act amends the current horse racing laws to expand the uses of the "Purse and Construction Fund" to include promotions to encourage patronage and tourism.

SIMULCASTING

RACING

HORSE RACING

SIMULCASTING

Act 10 (HB1162) - The act authorizes the Racing Commission to require horses claimed in claiming races to have a negative EIA test within the previous twelve months, rather than six months, and to allow such tests to be conducted after the race and after title and risk of loss have passed to the buyer. The act also authorizes the Racing Commission, in the event of a minus pool, to establish the minimum payout on winning wagers. The act also provides that with the prior approval of the Racing Commission a horse racing franchise holder may enter into agreements with other parties to allow its patrons to wager on races run at other racetracks which are shown live or in any other manner approved by the commission at locations on the grounds of the Arkansas horse race track and the franchise holder may enter into agreements whereby its races are shown live or in any other manner approved by the commission at other race tracks and locations.

RETIREMENT

FIRE AND POLICE PENSION REVIEW BOARD

MEMBERSHIP INCREASED

Act 543 (HB1325) - The act increase the membership of the Arkansas Fire and Police Pension Review Board from 7 to 9 members. It adds another member representing the Arkansas Municipal League (from 2 to 3 members of the Board) and makes the Director of the Department of Finance and Administration a member.

FIREMEN'S AND POLICE OFFICERS' PENSION AND RELIEF FUND

DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUES

Act 1394 (HB1412) - The act sets forth the formula for distributing certain insurance premium taxes into the Firemen's and Police Officers' Pension and Relief Fund.

HIGHWAY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

AUTOMATION EXPENSES

Act 32 (HB1193) - The act adds expenses for automation of the accounting needs to the list of authorized expenses for which the State Highway Employees' Retirement System can expend administration funds.

BENEFIT INCREASE FOR RETIREES (HEALTH INSURANCE PAYMENT)

Act 311 (SB90) - The act increases the benefits of retirees and beneficiaries of the State Highway Employees' Retirement System by providing an extra payment to the retirees to offset health insurance costs. Retirees receiving benefits prior to, on, or subsequent to July 1, shall have added to his or her annuity $125 per month, provided, the board may grant an additional sum not exceed up to $250 per month.

COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS REVISED

Act 335 (HB1161) - The act eliminates references to the federal Consumer Price Index when used in making cost of living adjustments for retirees and beneficiaries of the Arkansas State Highway Employees' Retirement System. It makes all cost-of-living adjustments for the future a flat 3% increase in benefits.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SYSTEM

Act 33 (HB1194) - The act provides that if a member of State Highway Employees' Retirement System withdraws from service, he or she must withdraw the employee's contributions when it is less than $250 or it will become forfeited to the system unless withdrawn within 3 years following the employee's termination of service with the Highway Department. The withdrawal is not required where the employee is a member of a reciprocal retirement system.

RETIREMENT

INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS

BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS

Act 867 (SB396) - The act provides that contributions and earnings on Roth IRAs are exempt from execution under bankruptcy proceedings.

EXEMPTION OF BENEFITS

Act 817 (SB485) - The act exempts the first $6,000 of individual retirement account benefits received by any resident of the state from state income taxes.

INCOME TAX TREATMENT

Act 513 (SB467) - The act adopts certain provisions of the federal law for purposes of Arkansas income tax treatment of distributions from and contributions to a Roth individual retirement account and an educational individual retirement account.

JUDICIAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS

Act 388 (SB37) - The act eliminates the use of the federal Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the method of computing the cost of living adjustment for the Judicial Retirement System. It now uses a flat rate of 3% for the annual increases for retirees' benefits.

MINIMUM DISABILITY AND SURVIVORS BENEFITS PRESCRIBED

Act 1067 (SB127) - The act prescribes minimum disability benefits (24%) and minimum survivor benefits (12%) under a Judicial Retirement System based only on actual service. Further, it authorizes the application of reciprocal service credit to the Tier Two Actual Judicial Service Benefit plan.

TIER-TWO BENEFIT PLAN

Act 399 (SB49) - The act establishes the Tier-Two Actual Judicial Service Benefit plan for the Arkansas Judicial Retirement System based on a judge or justices actual service time. Under Tier-Two, a judge with a minimum of twenty (20) years of actual service may retire regardless of age, and any judge or justice who has served at least eight (8) years shall be eligible for benefits upon reaching age sixty-five (65) years. The Tier-Two plan requires judges to contribute 5% of their salaries for benefits. Further, the act repeals the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) for the Judicial Retirement System.

LEGISLATION AFFECTING RETIREMENT SYSTEM

INTRODUCTION DEADLINE

Act 1026 (SB799) - The act provides that bills affecting publicly supported retirement systems must be no later than the fifteenth day of any regular biennial session.

LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Act 670 (SB290) - The act allows the Fire and Police Pension Review Board to assure the tax qualification of local pension plans. The act also adopts federal law to assure that local pension plans meet the requirements for qualified plans under the Internal Revenue Code and clarifies a benefit provision for police pension and relief funds.

BENEFIT PROGRAM MULTIPLIERS INCREASED

Act 869 (SB402) - The act increases the multipliers for the annuities in the different benefit programs of the Local Police and Fire Retirement System. For Benefit Program 1, the multiplier was increased from 2% of final average pay to 2.1% in positions not covered by social security and from 1% to 1.1% in positions covered by social security. For Benefit Program 2, the multiplier was increased from 2% of final average pay to 3% per year of service not covered by social security before the election of the Benefit Program 2.

EARN SERVICE CREDIT WITH TWO (2) COVERED EMPLOYERS SIMULTANEOUSLY

RETIREMENT

LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

EARN SERVICE CREDIT WITH TWO (2) COVERED EMPLOYERS SIMULTANEOUSLY

Act 902 (HB1306) - The act allows Local Police and Fire Retirement System (LOPFI) members to earn service credit with more than one covered employer simultaneously. Beginning January 1, 1999, the Boards may credit a member both with volunteer service and with paid service when the member earns the service credit simultaneously under different covered employers. However, the member may earn volunteer service with only one covered employer at a time.

FINAL AVERAGE PAY CHANGED FROM 5 YEARS TO 3-YEAR AVERAGE

Act 863 (SB260) - The act reduces the time period for determining final average pay under the Local Police and Fire Retirement System from five (5) years to three (3) years.

FORFEITED SERVICE CREDIT RESTORED

Act 710 (SB236) - The act authorizes the Local Police and Fire Retirement System (LOPFI) restore forfeited service credit upon reemployment of former LOPFI members and upon payment of refunded money. Previously, the law allowed this only upon reemployment within 4 years.

MILITARY SERVICE CREDIT PURCHASE AUTHORIZED

Act 883 (SB401) - The act allows a person who is or was a member of the Local Police and Fire Retirement System (LOPFI) for 16 years, and who was not receiving benefits under the system on January 1, 1999, to purchase 2 years of credited service in LOPFI for service in the armed forces of the United States. The service must be prior to the member's employment covered by LOPFI and the member must pay member and employer contributions, plus interest.

NO REFUNDS FOR MEMBERS WITH RECIPROCAL SERVICE CREDIT

Act 1070 (SB344) - The act clarifies that members of the Local Police and Fire Retirement System (LOPFI) cannot receive a refund of contributions while receiving reciprocal service credit with another state retirement system. It also repeals some redundant provisions of the Arkansas Code regarding reciprocal service.

NORMAL RETIREMENT AGE REDUCED TO 28 YEARS FOR FULL BENEFITS

Act 955 (SB343) - The act authorizes members of the Local Police and Fire Retirement System (LOPFI) to retire with full benefits after twenty-eight (28) years of service credit. Previously, the normal retirement age for LOPFI was thirty (30) years of service credit for full benefits.

POLICE AND FIRE CHIEFS GIVEN SERVICE CREDIT FOR OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY CREDIT

Act 716 (SB403) - The act provides any member of the Local Police and Fire Retirement System (LOPFI) with at least 5 years of service and who has service in the position of chief of a law enforcement agency or fire department and who has been employed as a public safety or law enforcement officer in any agency not covered by LOPFI shall receive credited service in LOPFI for that service.

POLITICAL SUBDIVISION REDEFINED

Act 715 (SB393) - The act adds suburban improvement districts providing fire services to the definition of the term "political subdivision" under the Local Police and Fire Retirement System.

PURCHASE LOPFI SERVICE CREDIT FOR TIME WITH ANOTHER POLICE OR FIRE PENSION FUND

Act 1455 (HB1484) - The act allows members of the Local Police and Fire Retirement System (LOPFI), in limited circumstances, to purchase up to fifteen (15) years of prior service with a policemen's or firemen's pension and relief fund. The act requires the LOPFI member to have at least 10 years of LOPFI service to qualify and that the member contribute an amount that is the actuarial equivalent of the value of the credited service to be purchased up to the 15 years.

RECIPROCITY WITH OTHER RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

Act 537 (SB128) - The act makes the Local Police and Fire Retirement System (LOPFI) reciprocal with other state public retirement systems. It provides that service credit in LOPFI can be accumulated with service credit in other state public retirement systems to be eligible for a retirement benefit.

RETIREMENT

LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

REIMBURSEMENT REQUIREMENT FOR S.S. DISABILITY PAYMENTS ELIMINATED

Act 1453 (HB1461) - The act eliminates the Social Security Disability reimbursement requirement for the Local Police and Fire Retirement System (LOPFI). Previously, LOPFI members under disability retirement would be obligated to repay certain amounts disability income if they had also received social security funds.

MUNICIPAL JUDGES RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

DISABILITY AND SURVIVOR'S BENEFITS

Act 1329 (HB1332) - The act provides a disability benefit for municipal judges under a municipal judges retirement plan. If disability should occur during the final term, then the judge so elected shall be eligible at the one-half (1/2) pay as a benefit. Upon the death of a municipal judge leaving a surviving widow, the surviving spouse shall be eligible to receive benefits in an amount equal to one-half (1/2) the retirement benefits to which the deceased judge would have been entitled on the date of his death.

INVESTMENT ADVISOR

Act 48 (HB1324) - The act expands the investment powers, subject to the prudent investor rule, of cities and counties with municipal judges' and clerks' pension plans with assets in excess of $100,000, and authorizes those plans to employ investment advisors.

INVESTMENT ADVISORS

Act 49 (HB1326) - The act expands the investment authority, subject to the prudent investor rule, of first and second class cities with municipal judges' and clerks' pension plans with assets over $100,000, and authorizes the hiring of an investment advisor.

Act 330 (SB185) - The act authorizes first or second class cities with municipal judges' and clerks' retirement plans with assets in excess of $100,000 to employ investment advisors. It allows those qualifying cities to invest municipal judges' retirement plan assets in things other than government interest-bearing notes pursuant to city policy. Further, it requires those qualifying cities to follow the same standard of care followed by state supported public retirement systems in their investment policies.

INVESTMENT ADVISORS FOR CITIES IN COUNTIES OF 150,000 OR MORE IN POPULATION

Act 331 (SB186) - The act authorizes cities within counties having a population of at least 150,000 persons with city or county municipal judges' and clerks' retirement systems and with plan assets in excess of $100,000 to employ investment advisors to invest plan assets. It allows the qualifying cities or counties to invest plan assets in something other than government interest-bearing notes and requires the cities or counties to follow the same standard of care followed by state supported public retirement systems with their investments.

MINIMUM BENEFITS SPECIFIED

Act 1068 (SB45) - The act entitles any person participating in a municipal judges' retirement plan in a first or second class city or in cities in a county with 150,000 people to a retirement benefit if that person has 10 or more years of actual service in a plan and is at least sixty (60) years of age. If the person does not have sufficient service to draw the full benefit provided, then a partial benefit may be received.

MUNICIPAL NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLANS

INVESTMENT POLICIES

Act 50 (HB1327) - The act authorizes cities with non-uniform employee pension plan funds in excess of $100,000 in assets, regardless of the method of funding the plans, to use professional investment advisors. It further makes the boards of trustees for these pension plans subject to the same investment policies and rules as required for state-funded public retirement systems.

RETIREMENT

MUNICIPAL NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLANS

INVESTMENT POLICIES

Act 332 (SB198) - The act authorizes cities with non-uniform employee pension plan funds in excess of $100,000 in assets, regardless of the method of funding the plans, to use professional investment advisors. It further makes the boards of trustees for these pension plans subject to the same investment policies and rules as required for state-funded public retirement systems.

POLICE AND FIRE PENSION FUNDS

ANNUAL REPORTS SIMPLIFIED

Act 711 (SB252) - The act simplifies the annual reporting requirements for local police and fire pension and relief funds to the Arkansas Fire and Police Pension Review Board. It repeals provisions requiring certain reporting requirements by the local funds.

AUDIT REPORTS BY CITY CLERK

Act 573 (HB1323) - The act allows the city clerks, recorders or treasurers to prepare pension fund audit reports for a policemen's or firemen's pension and relief if they use procedures prescribed by the Fire and Police Pension Review Board.

DISTRIBUTION AND ALLOCATION OF INSURANCE PREMIUM TAXES CHANGED

Act 1570 (SB879) - The act changes the distribution and allocation of funds from insurance premium taxes used for the funding of policemen's and firemen's pension and relief funds. It increases the amount of insurance premium tax funds which are allocated to the Fire Protection Premium Tax Fund. It allocates a minimum of $600,000 per year of new money into the Fund beginning in the 1999-2000 fiscal year and caps the new allocation of money at two million dollars ($2,000,000).

DISTRIBUTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR DROP CHANGED

Act 1457 (HB1499) - The act changes the distribution of employer contributions made under the deferred retirement option plans (DROP) for members of policemen's and firemen's pension and relief funds. In a city having a population of 20,000 persons or less, employer contributions for employees participating under DROPs shall be credited in full to the policemen's and firemen's pension and relief fund, and the contribution of the employee shall be credited to the member's DROP account. Previously, one-half of employer contributions went to the member's DROP account which it still does for cities over 20,000.

FIREMEN MAY EARN BEYOND 100% OF SALARY IN BENEFITS

Act 901 (HB1303) - The act amends the current fire pension and relief fund law to allow firemen with twenty (20) or more years of service to be paid an additional retirement benefit which may exceed 100% of the firemen's amount of his salary. The act further authorizes fire pension and relief funds which have at least $100,000 in assets to hire investment advisors (currently, only plans with $500,000 in assets can hire advisors).

NO ADMINISTRATIVE FEES MAY CHARGED TO QUALIFY

Act 1288 (HB2058) - The act prohibits the Arkansas Fire and Police Pension Review Board from charging cities, towns, or fire protection districts an administrative fee to qualify to receive insurance premium tax money for its firemen's pension and relief fund. The Board shall incur all administrative and actuarial costs associated with obtaining the qualifying information. The Board must establish a percentage of the insurance tax revenues to meet the actuarial expenses and administrative costs incurred in obtaining and evaluating the required square mileage and population information, except that it may not exceed more than 1% of the insurance tax revenues.

PENALTIES FOR THE EXTENDED DROP ACCOUNTS CLARIFIED

RETIREMENT

POLICE AND FIRE PENSION FUNDS

PENALTIES FOR THE EXTENDED DROP ACCOUNTS CLARIFIED

Act 1459 (HB1504) - The act clarifies that the penalty provisions of the extended service benefit under the 10-year DROP accounts will apply only to the interest earned on the account and the employer contributions to the DROP account. Previously, it was a open question as to whether or not the penalty for withdrawing from the extended DROP could also include the contributions made from a member's retirement annuity or his employee contributions. The act makes any penalties to not apply to those items.

POLICEMEN'S PENSION SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM

Act 1452 (HB1443) - The act creates the Policemen's Pension Supplement Program to provide a state fund to assist certain retired police officers and survivors receiving pensions from policemen's pension and relief funds. It is funded by unallocated premium taxes levied on insurers which would go to general revenues, but which will now be transferred to the control of the Arkansas Fire and Police Pension Review Board. The Pension Review Board administers the program and makes the payments to officers receiving under $400 a month to increase them to at least $400 per month. For all those receiving over $400 per month in benefits, they will receive $15 per month in supplementary income.

PURCHASE SERVICE CREDIT AUTHORIZED FOR PREVIOUS ARKANSAS LAW ENFORCEMENT TIME

Act 903 (HB1396) - The act allows members of the policemen's pension and relief fund to purchase up to 2 years of credited service for service rendered as a law enforcement officer in this state prior to the member's covered employment. It requires the member to have participated in the policemen's pension and relief fund for at least eighteen (18) years, and to contribute to the member's deposit account a sum of money equal to the amount of the combined employee and employer contribution based on the last month of the employee's 18th year of service.

PURCHASE SERVICE CREDIT FOR POLICE AND FIRE-RELATED SERVICE

Act 1171 (HB1465) - The act authorizes members of a policemen's and firemen's pension and relief funds to purchase service credit for employment in a police-related or fire-related service position with a municipality. The members of the pension funds may purchase up to three (3) years of service credit with the fund. Police-related and fire-related service means employment with the city police or fire departments in positions related to the police or fire service, such as a radio dispatcher or a similar position.

RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS MAY HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE PAID WITH NO LOSS OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Act 1114 (HB1390) - The act authorizes a person retired under a firemen's pension and relief fund to continue to volunteer and remain actively involved in the fire department as long as the person does not receive any compensation for the service, except for payments for health insurance premiums or for reimbursements for any equipment or personal clothing destroyed by a fire.

RETROACTIVELY REMOVES THE REMARRIAGE PENALTY

Act 978 (HB1460) - The act retroactively removes the remarriage penalty and allows the survivor's benefits to be restored for a surviving spouse of a police officer who is killed in the line of duty. Prior to 1997, if a surviving spouse remarried, the survivor's benefits under the policemen's pension and relief fund would cease. Act 1241 of 1997 eliminated this penalty and this act allows it to be applied retroactively to restore a surviving spouse's benefits whose benefits had been terminated prior to or after August 1, 1997.

SURVIVING CHILDREN'S BENEFITS ENHANCED WHEN NO SURVIVING SPOUSE

RETIREMENT

POLICE AND FIRE PENSION FUNDS

SURVIVING CHILDREN'S BENEFITS ENHANCED WHEN NO SURVIVING SPOUSE

Act 1458 (HB1503) - The act gives the minor children of a police officer who dies and leaves no surviving spouse, a monthly pension benefit in an aggregate amount equal to the pension attached to the rank of the deceased police officer at the time of his death, but not less than $350 per month. Previously, only a surviving would receive this benefit and children received only $125 per month. It also extends the benefit of the minor child if any child enrolls in college as long as the child is a full-time student, but not beyond the child's twenty-third birthday, unless he or she is a dependent child who is physically or mentally permanently disabled. It allows the board of trustees to continue a benefit for life for a dependent child who is physically or mentally permanently disabled.

VALUATION OF PENSION FUND ASSETS

Act 1293 (SB395) - The act changes the valuation method of assets for policemen's and firemen's pension and relief funds. It allows the Fire and Police Pension Review Board to determine an asset valuation method for all police and fire pension funds in consultation with its actuary. Previously, pension fund assets were required to be valued at the end of each year at the cost value of the asset or 80% of its year-end value, whichever was greater.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

BENEFITS MULTIPLIER

Act 496 (SB36) - The act increases the multiplier for an annuity benefit from 1.7% to 1.72% of the final average salary for each year of credited service for members of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS). It also provides for an increase in benefit payments to current retirants and beneficiaries of 1% across the board and $50.00 per month.

CORRECTIONS FOR 5-YEAR VESTING

Act 627 (HB1478) - The act makes corrections to several provisions of law concerning eligibility for contributory benefits under the Public Employees' Retirement System to comply with the 5-year vesting previously effective in 1997.

COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS

Act 39 (HB1106) - The act amends the method of computing the cost of living adjustment for the Public Employees' Retirement System to remove the use of the federal Consumer Price Index (CPI) and require only a flat single percentage calculation of 3% per year.

DEATH IN SERVICE AFTER DISABILITY EXTENDED TO 18 MONTHS

Act 1450 (HB1392) - The act extends the time period under the Public Employees' Retirement System during which a member's death after a disability retirement is considered death in service. It now extends the death after a disability from 12 months to 18 months if the death occurs after July 1, 1998.

DISABILITY AND DEATH BENEFITS

Act 325 (SB34) - The act revises the eligibility provisions of the law governing the Public Employees Retirement System to revise the eligibility dates for disability retirement and death in service benefits. It provides for an early pay out for certain survivors death benefits and disability benefits.

DROP ACCOUNT, MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION

Act 535 (SB41) - The act changes the amounts deposited to the member's DROP account under the Public Employees' Retirement System to a minimum of 75% of the amount of the DROP annuity amount. Previously, the Board of Trustees determined the amount of the DROP contribution with no minimum.

EXTRA SERVICE CREDIT FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS ELIMINATED

Act 1587 (SB118) - The act changes the rate of earning service credit for the Governor, elected constitutional officers, and elected public officials under the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) to the same rate as for regular public employees. It applies to service credit earned by the public officials who are elected after July 1, 1999.

RETIREMENT

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS OPTION TO NOT PARTICIPATE

Act 705 (SB46) - The act changes the option for members of the General Assembly to not participate in the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) from a 90 day period after they first become members to an option to not be a PERS member at any time. The act further allows members of the General Assembly the option to be treated as regular state employees rather than treated under special provisions for elected officials.

LENGTH OF SERVICE REDUCED TO 28 YEARS FOR FULL RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Act 104 (HB1057) - The act authorizes members of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) to retire with full benefits after twenty-eight (28) years of service credit. Previously, PERS required 30 years of service credit for full benefits.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVISION CREATED

Act 308 (SB44) - The act creates within the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) the Local Government Division, for the participation of county employees, municipal employees, school employees, and certain other nonstate employees. Previously, PERS was made of several separate divisions for nonstate employees: the County Division, for the participation of county employees; the Municipal Division, for the participation of municipal employees; the School Division, for the participation of certain school employees; and the Other Nonstate Division, for the participation of certain other nonstate employees.

PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS LIMITED TO ONE STATE-SUPPORTED RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Act 884 (SB404) - The act requires that effective July 1, 1999, all participating employers in the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) cannot establish any other state authorized plan that requires contributions by the employer. The PERS Board of Trustees shall make regulations to prohibit the establishment of new plans in the future requiring employer contributions to more than one plan.

PUBLIC SAFETY CREDIT EXTENDED TO OTHER EMPLOYERS

Act 868 (SB397) - The act provides a public safety officer receiving credited service at one and one half (1½) times the regular rate for crediting service may change employers and continue to receive credited service at one and one half (1½) times rate. Previously, the law eliminated public safety service for persons employed after July 1, 1997. Further, the act allows for a disability retirement under Public Employees' Retirement System if the onset date determined by the Social Security Administration is within twenty-four (24) months of the date of termination from covered employment (instead of being employed for 18 months of the last 24 months before the disability occurs.

PURCHASE OF SERVICE CREDIT FOR ERRONEOUSLY ENROLLED EMPLOYEES

Act 1010 (HB1330) - The act allows any person who was erroneously enrolled in the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) and another state authorized retirement system for at least two (2) years to elect to restore service credit lost as a result of the erroneous dual coverage. It requires the person to be PERS member at the time of restoring the lost service and to make any contributions and interest that were refunded by PERS.

PURCHASE OF SERVICE CREDIT FOR NONUNIFORMED CITY EMPLOYEES AUTHORIZED

Act 706 (SB115) - The act authorizes a person who is a nonuniformed city employee or former employee to waive all benefits under city's nonuniformed retirement plan and to purchase current service credit in the Public Employees' Retirement System for service rendered as a paid nonuniformed employee of the municipality. The waiver must be filed with PERS and with the governing body of the city. The current or former paid nonuniformed employee must pay or cause the city to pay to PERS all employee contributions and all employer contributions that would have been paid had he been a member during that time, and regular interest on the employee and employer contributions.

RETIREMENT

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

RETURN TO EMPLOYMENT WITH THE STATE

Act 1039 (SB409) - The act requires the Department of Finance and Administration to issue regulations providing for the recruitment of retired members of the Public Employees' Retirement System to return to employment with the state. The retirement benefits of the rehired person will terminate upon reemployment and upon conclusion of the employment the retirement benefits will be recomputed using the additional service.

SERVICE CREDIT FOR SHERIFFS WHO ARE STATE POLICE RETIREES AUTHORIZED TO PURCHASE

Act 870 (SB415) - The act authorizes sheriffs or former sheriffs who were retirees of the State Police Retirement System and who became members of Public Employees' Retirement System (pursuant to Act 846 of 1995) to purchase his or her time as an elected sheriff prior to Act 846 of 1995. It requires the sheriff or former sheriff to pay all employee and employer contributions, and regular interest on the contributions. Previously, Act 845 applied only to prospective service after its effective date.

TERMINATION OF COVERED EMPLOYMENT REQUIRED

Act 1460 (HB1506) - The act requires that a member of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) must terminate covered employment to be eligible for retirement. It says a member shall not be considered terminated from employment for retirement purposes if he returns to work in a position of covered employment within 30 days of the person's effective date of retirement.

RETIREMENT SYSTEMS IN GENERAL

INDIVIDUAL PAYMENTS EXPEDITED

Act 714 (SB399) - The act amends the Accounting and Budgetary Procedures law to authorize the Chief Fiscal Officer to process payments to retirees by the Arkansas Local Police and Fire Retirement System, the State Police Retirement System, the Judicial Retirement System, and the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System in a timely manner by electronic vouchers to the State Auditor.

SEVERAL RETIREMENT SYSTEMS LAWS CHANGED

Act 1325 (HB1076) - The act amends various provisions of several retirement systems laws, including the Judicial Retirement System, Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS), and State Highway Employees' Retirement Systems. It requires the Board of Trustees of the Judicial Retirement System to notify the Joint Committee on Public Retirement concerning the statutory authority and actuarial appropriateness of proposed board actions to establish or revise a multiplier or any benefit increases. It allows the PERS to reduce its DROP to 28 years of service, but requires 30 years of service for a full DROP participation.

TAX-QUALIFIED STATUS JEOPARDIZED

Act 865 (SB357) - The act authorizes the Board of Trustees of Public Employees' Retirement System, Teacher Retirement System, and Local Police and Fire Retirement System to provide rules and regulations for the participation of certain employers, rehabilitative services corporations, habilitative service corporations, and rural fire protection corporations, respectively for each system. However, the Boards cannot allow any employer to participate in their respective systems which would jeopardize the tax-qualified status of the respective system under the Internal Revenue Code.

STATE POLICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

TIER-TWO BENEFIT PLAN - ONE AND ONE-HALF TIMES SERVICE CREDIT ELIMINATED

RETIREMENT

STATE POLICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

TIER-TWO BENEFIT PLAN - ONE AND ONE-HALF TIMES SERVICE CREDIT ELIMINATED

Act 387 (SB35) - The act eliminates the use of the federal Consumer Price Index (CPI) in figuring the cost-of-living adjustments for the State Police Retirement System and makes it now a flat 3% increase per year. Further, the act makes numerous changes to the Tier-Two Benefit Plan for the State Police Retirement System. It eliminates the 1.5 years of credited service for each year of actual service and makes the benefits based on actual service instead of any credited service. It then increases the benefit multiplier for determining annuity benefits from 1.65% per year of service to 2.475% per year of service.

TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM

ANNUAL BENEFIT INCREASE COMPOUNDED - THREE PERCENT (3%)

Act 404 (SB265) - The act authorizes the Board of Trustees of the Teacher Retirement System (TRS), when actuarially appropriate, to compound an annual 3% cost-of-living adjustment for retirants, beneficiaries, and T-DROP participants. Before the increase, the Board shall notify the Joint Interim Committee on Public Retirement.

CLARIFIES INTENT OF ACT 992 OF 1997

Act 31 (HB1191) - The act clarifies Act 992 of 1997 to provide that Teacher Retirement System retirees would receive an annuity increase on April 1, 1997 (instead of July 1, 1997) if they were retired on July 1, 1990 or later. The increase was equal to .7% as a one-time adjustment and shall become the base amount for future increases.

CONTRACT SALARY SUBSTITUTED FOR ACTUAL SALARY

Act 906 (HB1477) - The act allows the Teacher Retirement System to substitute the contract salary for the actual salary when the person has received an actual salary reduced below the contract salary due to military service or other government service. The benefit annuity will be computed based upon the contract salary and not the reduced salary resulting from the military service or other government service. The employee and employer contributions in effect at the time service is rendered, plus interest, must be paid on the difference between the actual salary and the contract salary.

DEADLINE FOR OPTING OUT OF ALTERNATE PLANS EXTENDED

Act 908 (HB1497) - The act extends the time period for staff members of technical and community colleges, vocational schools, and the Division of Vocational-Technical Education to become members of the Teacher Retirement System instead of the alternate retirement plans offered to other staff members. Previously, the staff members had to choose before July 1, 1997 and the deadline was extended to July 1, 1999.

EARLY PARTICIPATION PERMITTED FOR T-DROP

Act 1590 (HB1391) - The act authorizes the Board of Trustees of the Teacher Retirement System to allow members having at least twenty-eight (28) but less than thirty (30) years of credited service to enter into the T-DROP plan as early participants. The T-DROP contribution shall be based upon the contribution percent payable for a participant with thirty (30) years of service, reduced by at least an additional one half of one percent (0.5%) for each month the member begins participating in the T-DROP plan prior to having thirty (30) years of credited service. It also amends a section of Act 400 of 1999 regarding the additional $50.00 benefit for retirees.

EARNINGS LIMITATION WAIVER

Act 30 (HB1190) - The act allows the State Board of Education to adopt rules and regulations to request a waiver of the earnings limitation for retirees who wish to return to work at jobs covered by the Teacher Retirement System. The Board of Trustees must approve the waiver and it is effective for a one (1) year period, with the option to review annually as requested by the Arkansas Department of Education.

RETIREMENT

TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM

EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR T-DROP PARTICIPANTS LIMITED

Act 773 (SB370) - The act provides that when the employer contributions to the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System have ceased for a participant in the Teacher Deferred Retirement Option Plan (T-DROP), then they will become a part of the general operating fund of the school district to be used for any purpose including employee salaries. It requires that the school district may not make contributions to any tax qualified retirement plan on behalf of any employee participating in T-DROP.

INCREASE IN LUMP-SUM PAYMENT BENEFIT

Act 312 (SB102) - The act increases the lump-sum benefit paid to the survivors of active and retired members of the Teacher Retirement System from $7,500 to $10,000 for contributory service and from $5,000 to $6,667 for noncontributory service. It also provides a new additional lump-sum benefit for each surviving dependent child who shall be paid a lump sum of $10,000 upon the death of either an active member or retirant.

MINIMUM BENEFIT FOR MEMBERS WITH TEN (10) YEARS OF SERVICE

Act 221 (SB105) - The act provides a minimum benefit for members of the Teacher Retirement System with ten (10) or more years of service varying from $94.00 to $150.00 depending on contributory and noncontributory service. (Previously, the law allowed for minimum $100.00 benefit for members with at least 5 years).

MOST NONCONTRIBUTORY OPTIONS ELIMINATED AND ACT 81 OF 1999 REPEALED

Act 907 (HB1485) - The act eliminates the option for most members of the Teacher Retirement System to become noncontributory members. All new members after July 1, 1999 will no longer be given the noncontributory option, except for those persons working 180 days or less will have one year to chose. All current members will be given a one time irrevocable option to become noncontributory. Further, the act repeals Sections 1 and 2 of Act 81 of 1999.

MULTIPLIER - INCREASE AUTHORIZED

Act 396 (SB305) - The act allows the Board of Trustees after July 1, 1999 to increase the benefit multiplier when actuarially appropriate from 2.065%, but not more 2.15%, of his final average salary times his number of years of credited service. It also allows the Board to increase the current retirees benefit and equivalent amount. The Board reports the circumstances of the actuarially appropriateness to the Joint Interim Committee on Public Retirement.

NON-CONTRIBUTORY OPTIONS ELIMINATED

Act 81 (HB1189) - The act eliminates the option to become a non-contributory member of the Teacher Retirement System for all new members after July 1, 1999 and gives all current members one-time irrevocable choice on non-contributory status.

NONCONTRIBUTORY SERVICE CREDIT CONVERTED TO CONTRIBUTORY SERVICE

Act 864 (SB304) - The act allows active members of the Teacher Retirement System to convert noncontributory service credit time to contributory credited service. The member must purchase the additional contributory service credit by paying the member's contributions to the system which were not previously paid.

OPTION TO SUSPEND ANNUITY PAYMENTS

Act 29 (HB1188) - The act entitles a member of the Teacher Retirement System to request the system, in writing, to suspend the payment of all the benefit payments by the system. The member forfeits all those payments which would have been paid during the suspension of his annuity payments.

PENALTY FOR EARLY RETIREMENT REDUCED

Act 1521 (SB291) - The act reduces the early retirement penalties for members of the Teacher Retirement System from 10% plus 5% for each year of early retirement to just 5% for each year of early retirement.

RETIREMENT

TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM

PURCHASE OF SERVICE FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND OUT-OF-STATE SERVICE

Act 110 (HB1192) - The act provides that members of the Teacher Retirement System can purchase fractional years of service credit for out-of-state service or for private school service. Previously, service credit could be purchased only for whole years of service.

REVISES COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS

Act 400 (SB101) - The act replaces the cost-of-living adjustment provisions of the Teacher Retirement System from the use of the federal Consumer Price Index (CPI) with a flat rate 3% per annum increase. It also provides retirees after July 1, 1999 with an additional $50.00 per month benefit, or up to $125.000 per month in the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

SALARY DEFINED

Act 11 (SB103) - The act amends the definition for "salary" under the Teacher Retirement System to include employer pick-up contributions, payments to cafeteria plans, and employee contributions to tax-sheltered annuities. It also repealed other provisions which excluded those items from being considered as part of the compensation for retirement purposes.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

Act 866 (SB371) - The act makes technical corrections to the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) law and adds provisions to expand the type of overseas service for which members are eligible to purchase service credit. Further, it changes the method by which TRS members compute the cost of purchased service credit.

TEN-YEAR CERTAIN OPTION (OPTION C) CHANGED

Act 395 (SB104) - The act changes the terms for the Ten-Year Certain and Life Thereafter option (Option C) under the Teacher Retirement System. It allows the retirant who has selected the Ten-Year Certain option and whose beneficiary predeceases the 10 year period to choose new successor beneficiaries, or he may elect to return to his single lifetime benefit equivalent.

TRS-AFFORDABLE HOUSING INVESTMENT ACT

Act 555 (SB407) - The act authorizes the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System (TRS) to create subsidiary corporations and to build and operate affordable housing facilities, nursing home facilities, assisted living facilities, and other similar facilities as investments and for the benefit of its members. It permits TRS to invest in and guarantee the debt of its subsidiary corporations formed for the purpose of building and operating these kinds of facilities.

STATE AGENCIES GENERALLY

ABOLISHED

Act 1133 (HB1945) - The act abolished the following: The Alternative Fuels Commission; The Alternate Fuels Advisory Committee; The Board to Prescribe Restrictions Under Which Retired Police Officers May Carry Concealed Weapons; The Community Work, Recreation, & Youth Opportunities Commission; The Fiscal Resource Advisory Commission; The Arkansas Health Resources Commission; The Buffalo National River Commission; and The Catastrophic Financial Loss Board.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT

ADJUDICATION

Act 778 (SB489) - The act provides that in cases of administrative adjudication, copies of the petition for review shall be served upon the agency and all other parties of record in accordance with the Arkansas Rules of Civil Procedure.

AWARD OF CONTRACTS

STATE AGENCIES GENERALLY

AWARD OF CONTRACTS

Act 1496 (HB2069) - The Act provides that prime contractors, as a condition to perform construction work for and in the State of Arkansas, shall use no other subcontractors when the subcontractors' portion of the project is twenty thousand dollars ($20,000) or more except those licensed by the Contractors Licensing Board and qualified in: (1) Mechanical, indicative of heating, air conditioning, and ventilating; (2) Plumbing: (3) Electrical, indicative of wiring and illuminating fixtures, and (4) Roofing and sheet metal work, indicative of roofing application.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

EVALUATION

Act 1308 (HB1944) - The act provides for a new schedule for the evaluation of boards and commissions by the Joint Performance Review Committee.

LEGISLATORS

Act 1414 (SB620) - The act provides that all legislator positions on executive branch boards and commissions are to be filled by nonlegislators.

BUILDING SERVICES, STATE

ACQUISITIONS AND SUPERVISION

Act 1173 (HB1702) - The act amends various provisions of the code pertaining to the State Building Services.

BLIND FACILITY VENDORS

Act 750 (HB1166) - The act provides an exception to the termination of leases for facility vendors in state buildings operated by those other than the blind. Specifically, leases executed under 22-2-114 prior to June 1, 1999 shall not be considered a contract or agreement within this subchapter if the property is owned by State Building Services.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Act 494 (HB1644) - The act requires the State Building Services to establish and maintain a list of contractors desiring written notice of invitation for bids and also establishes a fee not to exceed twenty-five dollars to be paid by the contractors wishing to receive the notice.

DIGITAL CHECK IMAGES

Act 648 (HB1748) - The act allows all public entities to accept photographic copies or digital images of canceled checks in lieu of the original documents.

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

Act 1032 (HB1870) - The act provides that no state agency may award any discretionary grant prior to review by the Legislative Council or the Joint Budget Committee except in case of an emergency.

ELECTRONIC RECORDS STUDY COMMISSION, ARKANSAS

Act 1060 (SB899) - The act creates the Arkansas Electronic Records Study Commission to develop recommendations for amendments to the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act as it relates to electronic records.

EXPENDITURES

APPROPRIATION

Act 236 (SB38) - The act repeals Arkansas Code 19-2-401 through 19-2-403 which required that agencies not spend more than ninety-five percent of their appropriated amounts.

ELECTIONS

Act 1006 (HB1052) - The act provides that any funds appropriated to any state agency, board, or commission that is expended, as prescribed in Section 2, for the purpose of opposing or supporting any initiative, referendum, proposed constitutional amendment, or other measure which is submitted or intended to be submitted to a popular vote at an election, whether or not it qualifies for the ballot, shall be reported to the Legislative Council if it exceeds one hundred dollars.

STATE AGENCIES GENERALLY

LEASED SPACE

PREFERENCE TO BUILDINGS IN CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICTS

Act 859 (HB1495) - The act provides that in cities with a population of less than 25,000 persons, state agencies providing direct public access services shall, when leasing space, give preference to leasing existing buildings in the central business district unless the location would impair or restrict the intent of the services being provided to the public or the state's proximity to other state or nongovernmental services or where rental rates justify the locations.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTIONS COMMISSION

Act 602 (HB1700) - The Arkansas Alternative Dispute Resolutions Commission may collect fees for tuition and registration for educational programs and for maintaining a roster of neutrals.

ARCHITECTS, STATE BOARD OF

Act 1338 (HB1669) - The act changes the membership of the Arkansas State Board of Architects; requires the board to give notice and to hold hearings on complaints; exempts various types of buildings; requires that plans be approved by the State Fire Marshal; and allows non-residents who hold certification through the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards to practice in the state.

ATHLETIC COMMISSION, ARKANSAS STATE

Act 1085 (HB1650) - The act amends various provisions of the Arkansas Code relating to the authority and responsibility of the Arkansas State Athletic Commission.

CLAIMS COMMISSION, ARKANSAS STATE

Act 686 (SB550) - The Arkansas State Claims Commission may enforce its subpoenas in any court of record and shall be entitled to the services of the Attorney General or the local Prosecuting Attorney for assistance.

DELTA CULTURAL CENTER POLICY ADVISORY BOARD

Act 1074 (SB492) - The act removes the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Director of the Arkansas Arts Council from membership on the Delta Cultural Center Policy Advisory Board.

FIRE ANT ADVISORY BOARD, ARKANSAS

Act 1119 (HB2103) - The Vice President for Agriculture of the University of Arkansas System instead of the head of the Department of Forest Resources at the University of Arkansas at Monticello shall be a member of the Arkansas Fire Ant Advisory Board and a representative of the Arkansas Pest Control Association shall be a member of the board.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER BOARD

Act 1287 (HB2038) - The act amends various provisions of the Arkansas Code pertaining to the Fire Extinguisher Board.

FIRE MARSHAL, STATE

Act 1338 (HB1669) - The act changes the membership of the Arkansas State Board of Architects; requires the board to give notice and to hold hearings on complaints; exempts various types of buildings; requires that plans be approved by the State Fire Marshal; and allows non-residents who hold certification through the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards to practice in the state.

GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

Act 1557 (SB801) - The act repeals numerous provisions of the law which have been superseded by regulations of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

HEATING, VENTILATION, AIR CONDITIONER, AND REFRIGERATION

Act 465 (SB134) - The act adds licensing categories for sheet metal contractors, commercial refrigeration contractors and lifetime licenses.

STATE AGENCIES GENERALLY

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

HOMES INSPECTOR ADVISORY BOARD

Act 1312 (HB2164) - The act creates the Homes Inspector Advisory Board which shall determine the subject content and standards which will be acceptable to meet education standards with regard to home inspection courses and develop and implement procedures for resolving complaints against or by home inspectors practicing in this state.

INTEGRATED JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEMS COORDINATING COUNCIL

Act 848 (SB823) - The act creates the Arkansas Integrated Justice Information Systems Coordinating Council for the purpose of studying existing justice information systems and reporting to the Governor, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and the Joint Committee on Advanced Communication and Information Technology no later than March 31, 2000.

MASSAGE THERAPY, ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF

Act 1461 (HB1516) - The act amends various provisions of the Arkansas Code pertaining to the authority and duties of the Arkansas State Board of Massage Therapy.

MEDAL OF HONOR COMMISSION, ARKANSAS

Act 556 (SB427) - The act authorizes the Governor to appoint an unlimited number of members to the Arkansas Medal of Honor Commission, subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

OUACHITA RIVER COMMISSION

Act 1532 (SB493) - The act creates the Ouachita River Commission to promote the recreational benefits of the river. The act also creates the Ouachita River Waterways Project Trust Fund.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION COUNCIL, ARKANSAS

Act 991 (HB2211) - The act adds the Chairman of the TEA Program Advisory Council or its successor or designee to the membership of the Arkansas Public Transportation Coordination Council.

REAL ESTATE COMMISSION, ARKANSAS

Act 471 (SB309) - The act amends the Arkansas Real Estate License laws by permitting the Commission to require at least one hour of continuing education in a specific topic or topics as identified by the Commission. The act also provides that a person attempting to reactivate the real estate license shall satisfy the six hours per year requirement but it is not to exceed thirty hours.

RED RIVER COMMISSION

Act 1286 (HB2002) - The act increases from fifty dollars per day to seventy-five dollars per day the stipend for members of the Red River Commission.

RURAL ADVOCACY, OFFICE OF

Act 935 (HB1876) - The act renames the Office of Rural Advocacy as the Department of Rural Services.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Act 1507 (HB2195) - The act authorizes the Rural Development Commission to study all rural fire departments and their ISO ratings. It will examine why so many fire departments have an ISO rating of over eight (8), list needs of these fire departments in order to achieve a better rating, and make recommendations for policies and programs necessary to correct the problem. The Commission is to submit its findings to the House and Senate Committees on Agriculture and Economic Development and to the Governor by July 1, 2000.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION DISABILITY DETERMINATION, STATE DEPARTMENT OF

Act 4 (SB17) - The act authorizes the director of the State Department for Social Security Administration Disability Determination or counsel for the agency to issue subpoenas to assist in investigations relating to public assistance benefits.

STATE AGENCIES GENERALLY

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Act 1286 (HB2002) - The act increases from fifty dollars per day to seventy-five dollars per day the stipend for members of the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

STATE EMPLOYEE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL PERSONNEL BOARD, ARKANSAS

Act 1280 (HB1869) - The act changes the name of the Arkansas State Employee and Public School Personnel Board to the State and Public School Life and Insurance Board. The act also changes the composition, powers, and duties of the board.

STATEWIDE RADIO SYSTEM WORK GROUP

Act 502 (SB318) - The act creates the Statewide Radio System Work Group to make recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly regarding the feasibility, design, implementation, resource needs and other requirements for the implementation of a statewide radio system to be used by all state agencies..

WOMEN'S COMMISSION

Act 661 (HB1734) - The act abolishes the Arkansas Women's Commission.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD, ARKANSAS

Act 1125 (HB1074) - The Arkansas Workforce Investment Act establishes the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board and sets out the membership, powers and duties of the board. The act requires the Governor to prepare and deliver to appropriate agencies a plan outlining the state's five-year strategy for the statewide workforce investment system. The act requires the Governor to designate local workforce investment areas. The act requires the establishment of local workforce investment boards and requires the chief elected officials in the local areas to appoint members of the local boards. The act requires the Governor, once every two years, to certify one local board for each local area in the state and sets out the powers and duties of the local boards.

PERFORMANCE BASED BUDGETING

PILOT PROGRAMS

Act 222 (SB279) - The act authorizes the Legislative Council to select programs from at least three agencies for a pilot program of performance based program budgeting and strategic planning.

PERSONAL CHECKS

Act 515 (SB121) - The act prohibits any state agency, board, commission, or institution from refusing to accept personal checks unless and until it has filed with the Legislative Council a written statement justifying the agency's policy to not accept personal checks.

PRIVATIZATION

Act 17 (SB33) - The act requires state agencies to report to the Legislative Council and the Office of Personnel Management when an agency privatizes a function previously performed by state employees. The act also prohibits agencies from utilizing the positions which had been occupied by the state employees terminated due to privatization.

PUBLIC OPEN MEETINGS

Act 1589 (SB901) - The act provides that prior to calling an executive session for the purpose of considering employment, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining, or resignation of any public officer or employee. The specific purpose of the executive session shall be announced in public.

PUBLIC WORKS

BIDS

Act 1309 (HB1950) - The act decreases the amount of the bid bond for public works projects which is required to be submitted with the bid. The amount was decreased from fifty thousand dollars to twenty-five thousand dollars.

STATE AGENCIES GENERALLY

PUBLIC WORKS

BIDS

Act 1310 (HB1954) - The act provides that no contract providing for the making of major repairs, alterations or for the erection of buildings or other structures, or for making other permanent improvements shall be entered into by the state, any agency thereof, county, municipality, school district, or other local taxing unit with any contractor in instances where all estimated costs of the work shall exceed the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars ($75,000) unless the bid documents contain statements which encourage the participation of small, minority, and women business enterprises.

COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Act 675 (SB440) - The act raises from $30,000 to $50,000 the threshold for requiring competitive bids for public works projects in cities, counties, and school districts and provides that in the case of a state agency the bid of the apparent responsible low bidder must be accepted if within 25% (formerly 20%) of the amount appropriated.

OMNIBUS REVISIONS

Act 776 (SB471) - The act amends various sections of the Arkansas Code pertaining to public works.

SUBCONTRACTORS

Act 1250 (HB2280) - The act provides that a subcontractor under a public works contract may subcontract a portion of the listed work but may not subcontract the work in its entirety.

PUBLICATIONS

Act 1276 (HB1574) - The act reduces the use of state government publications for other than required informational purposes and requires state agencies to limit the number of publications distributed to the public.

PURCHASING LAWS

CORRECTION, DEPARTMENT OF

Act 145 (HB1141) - The act provides that any contractor or subcontractor who has entered into a contract with or for the benefit of a state board, state agency, or state-supported institution of higher education for the constructing, equipping, or operating, in whole or in part, of any facility of said board, agency, or institution may purchase goods produced by the Department of Correction and Department of Community Punishment for use in the performance of such contract.

HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Act 41 (HB1175) - The act includes nonprofit corporations contracting with the Department of Human Services under the definition of local public procurement unit.

PUBLIC PROPERTY

Act 219 (SB26) - The act requires a bidder to include a cashier's check in the amount of 1/10 of the bid with the bid for the purchase of state lands, for state agency construction contracts and for public construction bids.

RECRUITMENT OF RETIRED EMPLOYEES

Act 1039 (SB409) - The act requires the Department of Finance and Administration to issue regulations providing for the recruitment of retired members of the Public Employees' Retirement System to return to employment with the state. The retirement benefits of the rehired person will terminate upon reemployment and upon conclusion of the employment the retirement benefits will be recomputed using the additional service.

STATE AGENCIES GENERALLY

STATE AGENCIES FACILITIES ACQUISITION ACT

Act 1182 (SB289) - The act amends various provisions of the State Agencies Facilities Acquisition Act.

WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Act 502 (SB318) - The act creates the Statewide Radio System Work Group to make recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly regarding the feasibility, design, implementation, resource needs and other requirements for the implementation of a statewide Radio System to be used by all state agencies..

YEAR 2000 COMPLIANCE

IMMUNITY

Act 1482 (HB1968) - The act grants immunity from suit to governmental entities and employees for failure of a government computer system to be year 2000 compliant.

STATE CAPITOL

CAPITOL ARTS AND GROUNDS COMMISSION

MEMBERSHIP

Act 1264 (SB874) - The act decreases the membership of the Capitol Arts and Grounds Commission.

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MONUMENT

CAPITOL ARTS AND GROUNDS COMMISSION, ARKANSAS

Act 564 (SB564) - The act authorizes the Secretary of State to assist the Arkansas Capitol Arts and Grounds Commission and the Arkansas Medal of Honor Commission in the construction and maintenance on the state capitol grounds of an appropriate monument to honor Arkansans who have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

PARKING FACILITIES AND UTILITIES

Act 1339 (HB1733) - The act authorizes State Building Services to construct and maintain parking facilities in the capitol zoning district and to charge for use of such facilities. The act gives State Building Services an easement or license over the capitol building and other buildings and grounds within the capitol complex for installing and relocating utilities, and for connecting facilities to existing structures.

TAXES

ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION TAX

TOURIST ATTRACTION

Act 1313 (SB337) - The act provides that a tourist attraction with total gross receipts of seven hundred fifty thousand dollars ($750,000) or more which has a portion of the real property on which the attraction is located which abuts and adjoins a city may petition the adjoining city to be included in the levy and collection of the cities advertising and promotion tax.

COIN OPERATED AMUSEMENTS

AMUSEMENTS STUDY COMMISSION

Act 1166 (SB953) - The act creates the Amusements Study Commission to study the effects of coin-operated amusements in Arkansas. The Commission shall study whether such amusements constitute lotteries which are prohibited by the Arkansas Constitution and whether the amusements, if constitutionally permissible, are properly regulated and taxed.

CORPORATE FRANCHISE TAX REPORTS

CONFIDENTIAL

Act 1598 (SB352) - The act makes confidential all information contained in a corporate franchise tax report except the name and address of the corporation; the name of the corporation's president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and controller; the total authorized capital stock with par value; the total issued and outstanding capital stock with par value; and the state of incorporation.

TAXES

FRANCHISE TAX

FILING AND REMITTANCE

Act 1037 (SB376) - The act provides that a corporation which fails to comply with the Secretary of State's franchise tax filing and remittance requirements shall be assessed a $25.00 penalty plus interest on the tax and penalty from the date due until paid at the rate of ten percent (10%) per annum. The act provides that the franchise tax, penalty and interest for any tax year shall not exceed two (2) times the corporations' tax owed.

PENALTIES

Act 673 (SB374) - The act repeals the penalty assessed against corporations for failure to furnish certain franchise tax information to the Secretary of State.

REPORT FORM

Act 1056 (SB853) - The act requires the Secretary of State to furnish a franchise tax report form to each corporation subject to the franchise tax by mailing the form to the current agent for service of process or other person identified by the corporation. A corporation filing a franchise report may state who is to receive the franchise tax form the following year if that person is different from the agent for service on file for the corporation at that time.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT EXEMPTION

Act 1598 (SB352) - The act makes confidential all information contained in a corporate franchise tax report except the name and address of the corporation; the name of the corporation's president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and controller; the total authorized capital stock with par value; the total issued and outstanding capital stock with par value; and the state of incorporation.

HIGHWAY BONDS

Act 1027 (HB1500) - The act authorizes the Arkansas State Highway Commission to issue revenue bonds not to exceed $575,000,000 for the purpose of constructing and renovating roads and highways. The act authorizes that the repayment of the bonds shall be guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the state and prescribes the terms and conditions of the issuance of such bonds. The act describes the sources of repayment of the bonds and provides for a statewide election on the question of issuing such bonds.

INCOME TAX

CREDIT - BIOFUEL PRODUCERS

Act 1367 (HB2153) - The act establishes an income tax credit for producers of advanced biofuels for buildings, equipment, higher education partnerships and purchasing, licensing or protecting intellectual property necessary to manufacture advanced biofuels.

CREDIT - DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED DEPENDANT

Act 417 (HB1123) - This act repeals the law providing an income tax credit for a taxpayer who maintains, supports and cares for a mentally retarded child and in lieu thereof provides a five hundred dollar ($500) income tax credit for any taxpayer in this state who maintains, supports, and cares for a dependant with a diagnosis of developmental disability. The act also amends the law providing an income tax credit for totally and permanently disabled children to repeal the physician certification requirement.

CREDIT - PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVICES, ELECTRIC VEHICLE EQUIPMENT AND FUEL CELLS

Act 976 (HB1359) - The act provides an income tax credit for taxpayers who construct a facility which designs, develops, or produces photovoltaic devices, electric vehicle equipment, or fuel cells. The act provides that the credit shall be equal to 50% of the costs to construct the facility.

CREDIT - POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Act 1446 (HB1253) - The act provides that tax credits for individual political contributions made prior to May 15 in a calendar year may be applied to the return filed for the previous taxable year.

TAXES

INCOME TAX

CREDIT - TOURISM ATTRACTION PROJECTS

Act 1135 (SB503) - The act makes various changes to the Arkansas Tourism Development Act. The most significant change is to provide an additional incentive for approved projects in the form of an income tax credit based on the project's employment of full- time permanent employees.

CREDIT - TUITION REIMBURSEMENT BY EMPLOYER

Act 1036 (SB363) - The act establishes an income tax credit to certain employers in an amount equal to 30% of the cost of tuition reimbursed by an employer to a full-time permanent employee for the cost of tuition, books and fees for a program of undergraduate or post-graduate education from an accredited institution of post-secondary education located in Arkansas.

CREDIT - WORKFORCE TRAINING

Act 1134 (SB280) - The act expands the scope of the Arkansas Existing Workforce Training Act of 1995. The act adds electronic manufacturers, computer software developers, data processors and biological researchers as entities which are eligible for financial assistance under the act. The act creates an income tax credit available to eligible companies who use either state supported educational or private trainers to provide their workforce training. The act also provides that eligible companies which use state supported educational institutions to provide their training may also qualify for a direct grant to fund the training.

CREDIT CONTRIBUTIONS TO INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS

Act 1217 (SB803) - The act provides for the establishment of individual development accounts designed to provide individuals and families with limited means an opportunity to accumulate funds for certain approved expenses. The act provides an income tax credit for taxpayers who contribute matching funds to accounts created pursuant to the act.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1995, ARKANSAS

Act 575 (HB1468) - The act amends the Arkansas Economic Development Act of 1995 to redefine the scope of eligible businesses which may qualify for benefits under the act. It also specifies time limitations for filing claims for tax refunds under the act and clarifies the definition of "average hourly wage" and "net new full-time permanent employee."

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE ACT 0F 1993, ARKANSAS

Act 584 (HB1527) - This act amends the Arkansas Economic Development Incentive Act of 1993 to redefine the scope of eligible businesses which may qualify for benefits under the act and clarifies the definition of "net new full time permanent employee."

EXEMPTION - CAPITAL GAINS TAX

Act 1005 (SB23) - The act repeals the 6% income tax rate on capital gains and in lieu thereof provides that 30% of all capital gains shall be exempt from state income tax.

FILING OF RETURNS

Act 1131 (HB1579) - The act amends the Arkansas Income Tax Act to revise the minimum gross income levels at which various types of taxpayers are required to file Arkansas individual income tax returns.

HOMESTEAD TAX REFUND

Act 900 (HB1247) - The act amends the homestead property tax refund law to provide that taxpayers with a household income of $25,000 or less for tax year 2000 (previously $16,000) and taxpayers with a household income of $30,000 or less for tax year 2001 and thereafter, shall be entitled to a refund of a portion of the ad valorem taxes paid on the taxpayers homestead.

INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS

Act 144 (HB1081) - The act adopts federal Roth individual retirement account provisions for Arkansas income tax purposes.

TAXES

INCOME TAX

INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS

Act 513 (SB467) - The act adopts certain provisions of the federal law for purposes of Arkansas income tax treatment of distributions from and contributions to a Roth individual retirement account and an educational individual retirement account.

Act 817 (SB485) - The act exempts the first $6,000 of individual retirement account benefits received by any resident of the state from state income taxes.

INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS

Act 1283 (HB1983) - The act amends various provisions of the Arkansas Income Tax Act to clarify the taxation of nonresident partners of investment partnerships.

PAYMENT OF TAX

Act 1132 (HB1631) - The act provides for the payment of state taxes with credit cards and permits electronic or digital signatures on tax returns. The act amends the electronic funds transfer provisions of the law to clarify conditions for a completed tax payment by electronic funds transfers. The act amends the Arkansas Income Tax Withholding Act to require that companies who provide the service of reporting and remitting Arkansas withholding tax on the employees of other companies remit such taxes by electronic funds transfer. The act amends the Arkansas Income Tax Act to require originators, transmitters or paid preparers of electronically filed Arkansas income tax returns to retain signature and other supporting documents.

PUBLIC ROADS IMPROVEMENTS CREDIT ACT

Act 1347 (HB1912) - The act establishes the "Arkansas Public Roads Improvements Credit Act" which provides income tax credits to taxpayers for contributions which aid in the construction of capital improvements for public roads.

TAX-DEFERRED TUITION SAVINGS PROGRAM, ARKANSAS

Act 996 (SB532) - The act establishes the Arkansas Tax-Deferred Tuition Savings Program. The program provides income tax incentives for individuals who invest funds to provide for the higher education expenses of a designated beneficiary. The program is to be administered by the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System.

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

Act 1126 (HB1220) - The act amends various state income tax provisions to adopt recent changes to the internal revenue code.

WATER RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES ACT

Act 765 (HB1930) - The act amends the Water Resource Conservation and Development Incentives Act by increasing the annual income tax credit for surface water conversion in critical areas to $200,000 for projects using water for industrial or commercial purposes. The act increases the total amount of tax credits available under the Act to $10,000,000 in any calendar year and provides that the tax credit shall expire in the year following the year in which the total tax credits exceed $10,000,000.

INSURANCE PREMIUM TAXES

DISTRIBUTION TO THE FIREMEN'S AND POLICE OFFICERS' PENSION AND RELIEF FUND

Act 1394 (HB1412) - The act sets forth the formula for distributing certain insurance premium taxes into the Firemen's and Police Officers' Pension and Relief Fund.

STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

Act 977 (HB1416) - The act provides that no assessment of any insurance premium tax nor credit or refund of an overpayment of any insurance premium tax shall be made after five years after the date the tax report was required to be filed or the date the tax report was filed, whichever is later.

TAXES

MIXED DRINK TAX

BOND SECURING PAYMENT

Act 910 (HB1611) - The act abolishes the requirement that taxpayers renewing their liquor permits procure a bond to secure payment of their mixed drink tax.

MOTOR AND DISTILLATE FUEL TAXES

Act 1028 (HB1548) - The act levies an additional excise tax on motor fuel in the amount of 1¢ per gallon per year for 3 years. The act also levies an additional excise tax on distillate special fuel in the amount of 2¢ per gallon on the effective date of the act and provides that the tax on distillate special fuel will increase to 4¢ per gallon effective one year after the effective date of the act. The act also provides that the additional taxes collected pursuant to the act shall be special revenues and shall be distributed as set forth in the Arkansas Highway Revenue Distribution Law. The act also eliminates the current limitation on the transfer of funds to the State Aid Road Fund.

PROPERTY TAX

AGRICULTURAL, TIMBER, AND PASTURE LAND

Act 486 (HB1114) - The Assessment Coordination Department shall not modify the value of agricultural, timber or pasture land unless it conducts at least one public hearing in each congressional district of this state with the last public hearing occurring no later than six (6) months prior to the date of the modification. The Department shall provide written justification for any modification of agricultural, timber or pasture land.

ASSESSMENT

Act 1292 (HB2271) - The act provides that the penalty for delinquent assessment shall not apply to property acquired during the period of May 2 through May 31 if the property is assessed within thirty (30) days following the date of its acquisition.

ASSESSMENT AFTER NATURAL DISASTER

Act 974 (HB1013) - When real property is damaged by a natural disaster the assessor shall revalue the property if the damage occurred prior to the date the assessor's records are to be delivered to the county clerk regardless of whether the damage is covered by insurance.

COMPUTER STORAGE OF INFORMATION

Act 215 (HB1279) - The act amends the current laws relating to records and forms for payment of property taxes to provide that the term "book" shall include computer storage and retrieval of tax information.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Act 588 (HB1594) - The act allows county collectors to accept payment of county property taxes, penalties, and associated costs by an approved credit card or debit card. It further provides that county collectors are authorized to enter into contracts with credit card companies and to pay the fees normally charged by those companies for allowing the collector to accept their cards as payment. The act allows the collector to add a service fee equal to the amount charged to the collector by the credit card issuer to the underlying tax liability.

DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUES

Act 787 (HB1437) - The act amends the laws relating to documentation of revenues produced by the uniform rate of ad valorem tax to increase the number of times the State Treasurer must process the documentation to certify the amount to be receipted and redistributed to each county treasurer from twice each month to no more than four times each month.

EQUALIZATION BOARDS EXPANDED AND MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE QUORUM COURT

TAXES

PROPERTY TAX

EQUALIZATION BOARDS EXPANDED AND MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE QUORUM COURT

Act 1326 (HB1083) - The act revises the law regarding the organization of the county equalization boards. It requires equalization board members to be one-year residents of the county. Previously, there was no time period required. Further, the act increases the minimum size of the boards from 3 members to a minimum of 5 members and gives the quorum courts the authority to appoint its own members to the equalization boards. Previously, they appointed none. It also requires monthly meetings for the equalization boards and allows a longer period of time to appeal adjustments of increased assessments.

HOMESTEAD TAX CREDIT

Act 1492 (HB2053) - The act provides a three hundred dollar ($300) homestead property tax credit and increases the sales and use tax by one-half of one percent (1/2%). The act will not become effective unless the voters approve the constitutional amendment on property tax, referred to the people by the General Assembly.

PAYMENT OF REAL ESTATE TAXES

Act 994 (SB157) - The act allows a closing agent or abstract company to pay real estate taxes on a parcel of property at the time the ownership of the property is transferred.

PROPERTY TAXPAYER BILL OF RIGHTS, ARKANSAS

Act 572 (HB1299) - The act establishes the Arkansas Property Taxpayer Bill of Rights. The act sets forth objectives that apply to the operation of the Arkansas property tax system to assure that taxpayers are taxed fairly and assessed equitably throughout the state.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Act 228 (HB1302) - The act repeals the tax collection authority of the Public Service Commission.

REAPPRAISAL

Act 416 (HB1051) - The act provides that prior to a reappraisal of property for ad valorem tax purposes, the county assessor or the assessor's employees or agents shall notify the property owners of the assessor's intent to reappraise. The act further provides that if the reappraisal results in an increase in the assessed value of the property, the county assessor shall note in writing on the assessment records the justification for the increase, the date the property was inspected, and the details of the inspection.

Act 1444 (HB1042) - The act provides that property shall not be reappraised for ad valorem tax purposes more than once every five (5) years except in the event of countywide reappraisal. The act provides that in the event of countywide reappraisal, property taxes shall not be assessed on the basis of reappraised value until all property has been reappraised.

TAX CREDIT FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Act 940 (HB1936) - The act expands the property tax credit for senior citizens to include disabled persons.

REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT OF TAX

Act 1373 (HB2224) - The act provides that a taxpayer who has paid state tax to the State of Arkansas in excess of the taxes lawfully due shall be refunded any overpayment of the tax determined by the director to be erroneously assessed.

SALES AND USE TAX

BINGO OPERATIONS

Act 1152 (SB457) - The act repeals the 30% tax levied on the total gross receipts derived from the retail sale of any device used in playing bingo and any charge for admittance to facilities or for the right to play bingo or other games of chance and levies a 4 and 1/2% tax in lieu thereof. The act also repeals the requirement that a bingo operator must register with the Department of Finance and Administration.

TAXES

SALES AND USE TAX

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Act 818 (SB511) - The act provides that county sales and use taxes may be dedicated to be used for capital improvements or maintenance and operation of community colleges.

CREDIT - HOMESTEADS

Act 1492 (HB2053) - The act provides a three hundred dollar ($300) homestead property tax credit and increases the sales and use tax by one-half of one percent (1/2%). The act provides that it shall not become effective unless the General Assembly refers to the people a constitutional amendment to be approved during the 2000 general election which provides for a limitation on the increase in the assessed value of real property after a county-wide reappraisal and the amendment is approved by the people.

ELECTIONS

Act 1478 (HB1939) - The act permits designation of distribution of certain sales and use tax collections in the ballot for the election on the question of the levy of such taxes.

ENTERPRISE ZONE ACT OF 1993, ARKANSAS

Act 1130 (HB1556) - The act amends the Arkansas Enterprise Zone Act of 1993 to redefine the scope of eligible businesses which may qualify for benefits under the act. The act specifies time limitations for filing claims for sales tax refunds and clarifies the definition of "net new full-time permanent employee" and "average hourly wage."

EXEMPTION - AIRCRAFT

Act 952 (HB2114) - The act provides a sales tax refund to the owner of an agricultural aircraft used in the production of food, fiber, or timber which was destroyed or damaged by the storms which struck Arkansas during January, 1999 upon purchasing a replacement agricultural aircraft on or before December 1, 1999. The act provides that the purchaser is entitled to a refund of 100% of the tax paid on the purchase of a used aircraft and 38% of the tax paid on the purchase of a new aircraft.

EXEMPTION - CATALYSTS, CHEMICALS, REAGENTS, AND SOLUTIONS

Act 854 (SB769) - The act exempts the sale of catalysts, chemicals, reagents and solutions which are consumed or used in producing, manufacturing, fabricating, processing, or finishing articles of commerce at manufacturing or processing plants or facilities from sales tax. The act also exempts the sale of catalysts, chemicals, reagents and solutions which are consumed or used by manufacturing or processing plants or facilities in the state to prevent or reduce air or water pollution or contamination which might otherwise result from the operation of the plant or facility from sales tax. The act also repeals the requirement that replacement machinery and equipment must perform more efficiently or have a longer useful life to be exempt from sales and use tax.

EXEMPTION - EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY USED TO PRODUCE SOD AND NURSERY PRODUCTS

Act 1033 (SB91) - The act exempts the sale of equipment and machinery used for the agricultural production of sod and nursery products from the Arkansas gross receipts tax.

EXEMPTION - THE SERVICE OF RETREADING TIRES

Act 1110 (HB2236) - The act exempts the service of retreading tires which are sold directly to a consumer from sales and use tax.

EXEMPTION FOR EQUIPMENT USED IN HARVESTING TIMBER

Act 1334 (HB1566) - The act provides that the first fifty thousand dollars ($50,000) of the purchase price on the sale of machinery or equipment and related attachments that are sold to or used by a person engaged primarily in the harvesting of timber shall be exempt from sales and use tax.

TAXES

SALES AND USE TAX

EXEMPTION FOR TOURISM AMUSEMENT OR ENTERTAINMENT PARKS

Act 1510 (HB2237) - The act amends the "Arkansas Tourism Development Act" to authorize the director of the Department of Parks and Tourism to allow an exemption from the payment of sales and use taxes on purchases of materials used in the construction of a building or buildings for housing certain tourism amusement or entertainment parks and machinery or equipment to be located in such parks.

EXPIRATION OF GROSS RECEIPTS TAX PERMIT

Act 1031 (HB1538) - The act provides that the gross receipts tax permit of any taxpayer shall automatically expire when the taxpayer has filed twelve (12) consecutive monthly reports reporting zero sales.

LOCAL SALES TAX

Act 1137 (SB770) - The "single transaction" definition for local taxes must be adopted prior to commencement of the collection of the tax.

LOCAL TAX FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Act 1324 (SB927) - The act allows a legislative body which determines that a sales and use tax of one percent (1%) or less would, if levied for no longer than sixty (60) months, produce sufficient revenue to finance capital improvements of a public nature without resorting to a bond issue, to dispense with the issuance of bonds, levy the tax for no longer than sixty (60) months, and appropriate the resulting revenues.

LOCAL TAX ORDINANCE

Act 1289 (HB2089) - The act requires the director of the Department of Finance and Administration to approve each ordinance levying a city or county sales and use tax.

LOCAL TAX SUBJECT TO ELECTION

Act 1357 (HB2071) - The act provides that if petitions are filed requesting an election on the question of the levy of a countywide sales tax, the quorum court shall submit the question of the levying of the tax to the electors. The act provides that the petitions must be signed by no less than fifteen percent (15%) of the number of votes cast for the office of circuit clerk at the last preceding general election and that the election shall be held within one hundred twenty (120) days of the filing of the petitions.

MANUFACTURER'S INVESTMENT SALES AND USE TAX CREDIT ACT OF 1985

Act 995 (SB354) - The act amends the Manufacturer's Investment Sales and Use Tax Credit Act of 1985 to redefine the scope of eligible businesses which may qualify for benefits under the act. The act also permits the Department of Finance and Administration to examine records specific to the project and remand tax payments due for ineligible project expenditures.

PREPAID FUNERAL CONTRACTS

Act 598 (HB1667) - The act allows a person who purchases a prepaid funeral contract to pay sales tax on the items purchased in the contract on the date the contract is purchased in lieu of paying such taxes at the time of the person's death. The act provides that the tax shall be levied at the tax rate which is in effect at the time the contract is purchased. The act also provides that each prepaid funeral contract must state that any sales tax which is not paid at the date of the contract shall be due upon the death of the individual for whom the contract is purchased.

PREPAID TELEPHONE CALLING CARDS

Act 1348 (HB1929) - The act provides that sales of prepaid telephone calling cards or prepaid authorization numbers and the recharge of such cards or numbers shall be subject to the Arkansas sales and use tax.

SALES COMPETING WITH FOR-PROFIT BUSINESS

Act 1062 (HB1573) - The sale of new tangible personal property by charitable organizations is subject to sales tax when the sale directly competes with for-profit businesses. The act does not apply to sales made by nonprofit hospitals, cafeterias at nonprofit hospitals, or gift shops at nonprofit hospitals.

TAXES

SALES AND USE TAX

SALES TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE, ARKANSAS

Act 623 (HB1417) - The act creates the Arkansas Sales Tax Advisory Committee to review and study the tax policy and tax equity aspects of the Arkansas gross receipts tax to determine whether the tax base should be expanded and whether any exclusions or exemptions to the tax should be removed or modified. The act requires the Committee to prepare and submit to the Governor and the House and Senate Revenue and Taxation Committees on or before June 30, 2000, a comprehensive report concerning the activities undertaken by the Committee, including any recommendations for legislation.

SMALL BUSINESS ENTITY TAX PASS THROUGH ACT

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

Act 1528 (SB414) - The act makes technical corrections to the "Small Business Entity Tax Pass Through Act" and the "Revised Limited Partnership Act."

TAX PROCEDURE

Act 1277 (HB1626) - The act amends the Arkansas Tax Procedure Act to simplify the procedure required to seek judicial review of a decision of the director of the Department of Finance and Administration to deny a taxpayer's claim for refund The act clarifies that the Director shall release tax records upon receipt of a subpoena and extends the statute of limitations for an income tax assessment up to six years for taxpayers who underreport their net taxable income by twenty-five percent or more.

TOBACCO TAX

REMITTANCE OF TAX

Act 1246 (HB2235) - The act amends the Arkansas Tobacco Products Tax Act to clarify that an Arkansas retailer who purchases tobacco products from an unlicensed wholesaler or distributor is required to report and remit Arkansas tobacco tax directly to the state. The act establishes penalties for failure to report the tax.

TOBACCO

EXPORT PACKAGING

PROHIBITION AND PENALTIES

Act 1285 (HB2001) - The act prohibits the affixing of any tax stamp to a package of cigarettes if that package violates any federal labeling laws or is intended for export. The act requires the Tobacco Control Board to revoke a wholesale or retail license of any person who sells any cigarette packages without a tax stamp. The act requires the Department of Finance and Administration or the Tobacco Control Board to seize and destroy or sell to the manufacturer any export packages that do not comply with the act. Any violation of the act is a deceptive act or practice, a Class A misdemeanor.

MINORS

Act 1331 (HB1525) - The act makes it unlawful for persons under the age of eighteen years to possess, purchase, or use cigarettes or other tobacco products, and allows certified law enforcement officers and school officials to confiscate same.

NON-SETTLING TOBACCO PRODUCT MANUFACTURERS

Act 1165 (SB867) - The act requires all tobacco product manufacturers selling cigarettes to consumers in Arkansas to either become a participating manufacturer under the master settlement agreement or place into a qualified escrow fund a fee based upon the number of cigarettes sold within the state each year.

TOBACCO

PURCHASING PROHIBITION

Act 1591 (HS1955) - The act increases the restrictions on minors' purchases of tobacco. The act allows minors to sell tobacco as agents of an employer and to assist in the enforcement of tobacco laws. The law increases various penalties for violations of tobacco laws.

RETAILER

REMITTANCE OF TAX

Act 1246 (HB2235) - The act amends the Arkansas Tobacco Products Tax Act to clarify that an Arkansas retailer who purchases tobacco products from an unlicensed wholesaler or distributor is required to report and remit Arkansas tobacco tax directly to the state. The act establishes penalties for failure to report the tax.

UNFAIR CIGARETTE SALES ACT

TRANSFER ADMINISTRATION TO THE TOBACCO CONTROL BOARD

Act 1237 (HB2179) - The act amends the Unfair Cigarette Sales Act to transfer administration from the Department of Finance and Administration to the Tobacco Control Board.

TOURISM

ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION TAX

Act 1313 (SB337) - The act provides that a tourist attraction with total gross receipts of seven hundred fifty thousand dollars ($750,000) or more which has a portion of the real property on which the attraction is located which abuts and adjoins a city may petition the adjoining city to be included in the levy and collection of the cities advertising and promotion tax.

CRATER OF DIAMONDS STATE PARK

Act 15 (HB1068) - The act prohibits commercial mining at the Crater of Diamonds State Park. However, recreational mining by individuals is permitted at the park.

MOTORCOACH CARRIERS

FINANCIAL INCENTIVE

Act 233 (SB342) - The act provides a financial incentive to travel agents, tour operators, tour brokers, and group leaders who arrange for group tours via motorcoach in Arkansas. The act provides that the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism shall administer the program.

PROMOTION FUNDS

Act 1576 (SB904) - The act amends the current horse racing laws to expand the uses of the "Purse and Construction Fund" to include promotions to encourage patronage and tourism.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Act 1135 (SB503) - The act makes various changes to the Arkansas Tourism Development Act. The most significant change is to provide an additional incentive for approved projects in the form of an income tax credit based on the project's employment of full- time permanent employees.

SALES TAX EXEMPTION

Act 1510 (HB2237) - The act amends the "Arkansas Tourism Development Act" to authorize the director of the Department of Parks and Tourism to allow an exemption from the payment of sales and use taxes on purchases of materials used in the construction of a building or buildings for housing certain tourism amusement or entertainment parks and machinery or equipment to be located in such parks.

TOURISM ENTERPRISES

DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY, ARKANSAS

Act 429 (HB1523) - The act authorizes the Arkansas Development Finance Authority to finance tourism enterprises and provides that decisions concerning premium payments may take into account the risk of the project.

TOURISM

TOURISM ENTERPRISES

LOAN GUARANTEES

Act 429 (HB1523) - The act authorizes the Arkansas Development Finance Authority to finance tourism enterprises and provides that decisions concerning premium payments may take into account the risk of the project.

UTILITIES

CERTIFICATES OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND PUBLIC NEED

Act 1351 (HB1949) - The act requires that all applicants for certificates of environmental compatibility and public need make copies of the application available for public inspection at all public libraries in any affected county. The act requires that applicants mail notice, specifying the date on or about which the application is to be filed and the date that interventions or limited appearances must be filed with the commission, to each owner of real property on the proposed route on which a major utility facility is to be located or constructed.

ELECTRIC UTILITIES

DEREGULATION

Act 1556 (SB791) - The act is a seventy-one page document entitled "The Electric Consumer Choice Act of 1999".

EXEMPT WHOLESALE GENERATORS

Act 1322 (SB869) - The act provides that the term "public utility" shall not include an "exempt wholesale generator".

MUNICIPAL FRANCHISE FEES

Act 576 (HB1492) - The act requires the municipality levying the utility franchise fee to notify the utility's agent for service of process of the ordinance levying the fee. It also requires the city or town to notify the utility's registered agent for service of process after an annexation occurs, otherwise the utility shall not be liable for any additional franchise fees for utility service in newly annexed areas.

OIL AND GAS COMMISSION, ARKANSAS

GAS PIPELINES

Act 1048 (SB654) - The act clarifies the jurisdictional relations between the Arkansas Public Service Commission and the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission regarding gas pipeline facilities and the transportation of gas.

PRODUCTION FACILITIES

Act 1047 (SB634) - The act grants the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission jurisdiction over the production of oil and gas which includes natural gas production processes and production facilities.

RATE CHANGES

HEARINGS BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Act 1072 (SB435) - The act provides that when a formal proceeding to consider a general modification in the rates and charges of a public utility is initiated before the Arkansas Public Service Commission, the commission must conduct a hearing in an appropriate location or locations within the service territory of the public utility.

RURAL WATERWORKS FACILITIES BOARDS

Act 942 (HB1956) - The act changes the method of selecting members of rural waterworks facilities boards. The act requires rural waterworks facilities boards to at least annually conduct users meetings.

UTILITIES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

PROHIBITS CERTAIN PRACTICES

Act 1489 (HB2012) - The act prohibits a telecommunications service provider, or a person acting on behalf of any telecommunications service provider, from submitting or executing a change in a subscriber's selection of a provider of telephone exchange service or telephone toll service except in accordance with the verification procedures prescribed by the Federal Communications Commission.

RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE ACT

Act 946 (HB2041) - The act is an omnibus act making various changes to the Rural Telephone Cooperative Act.

WATER RESOURCES

INCOME TAX CREDIT

Act 765 (HB1930) - The act amends the Water Resource Conservation and Development Incentives Act by increasing the annual income tax credit for surface water conversion in critical areas to $200,000 for projects using water for industrial or commercial purposes. The act increases the total amount of tax credits available under the Act to $10,000,000 in any calendar year and provides that the tax credit shall expire in the year following the year in which the total tax credits exceed $10,000,000.

IRRIGATION, DRAINAGE, AND LEVEE DISTRICTS

WATERSHED STUDIES

Act 52 (SB150) - The act authorizes irrigation, drainage, watershed, regional water distribution, levee and conservation districts to participate in watershed or river or stream basin studies with or without assistance from the federal government. The studies would assess water quantity or quality issues within the basin which could impact the districts' facilities and operations. It also authorizes a district to use operation and maintenance funds to assist with study costs.

RURAL WATERWORKS FACILITIES BOARDS

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Act 942 (HB1956) - The act requires rural waterworks facilities boards to at least annually conduct users meetings.

SELECTION OF MEMBERS

Act 942 (HB1956) - The act changes the method of selecting members to rural waterworks facilities boards.

WASTEWATER LICENSING COMMITTEE

Act 719 (SB487) - The act clarifies to whom the Wastewater Licensing Committee is required to advise and assist.

WATER PERMIT FEES

Act 1052 (SB812) - The act prescribes the water permit fees which may be levied by the Department of Environmental Quality.

WATER PROVIDER CORPORATIONS

METHOD OF ESTABLISHMENT

Act 1003 (SB878) - The act prescribes the method for forming a water provider corporation to provide potable water and other associated services to Arkansas residents.

WATER WELL CONTRACTORS

REPORTS

Act 69 (HB1124) - The act extends from thirty to ninety days the deadline for water well contractors to deliver a report on completed water well construction projects to the Commission on Water Well Construction.

WATER RESOURCES

WATERWELL CONTRACTORS

ELECTRICAL WORK

Act 493 (HB1638) - The act provides that any person licensed by the Commission on Waterwell Construction may run power and control wiring from an existing disconnect box to waterwell equipment without obtaining an electrician's license.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Act 1504 (HB2165) - The act adopts technical corrections pertaining to rules and regulations for weights and measures.

WELFARE REFORM

INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS

Act 1217 (SB803) - The act provides for the establishment of individual development accounts designed to provide individuals and families with limited means an opportunity to accumulate funds for certain approved purchases. The act provides an income tax credit for taxpayers who contribute matching funds to individual development accounts created pursuant to the act.

TRANSITIONAL EMPLOYMENT BOARD, ARKANSAS

ESTABLISHED

Act 1567 (SB859) - The act makes various changes in the welfare reform law. The act changes the name of the oversight board to the Arkansas Transitional Employment Board and changes the board's membership, powers and duties. The act changes the membership, powers and duties of the local TEA coalitions The act creates exemptions to termination from welfare and increases access to education, child care and transportation for recipients.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

JUDICIARY

Senate Joint Resolution 9.--The resolution proposes a constitutional amendment revising the Judicial Article of the Arkansas Constitution.

TAXES

House Joint Resolution 1015.--The resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to provide property tax relief to the citizens of the State of Arkansas. Specifically, the resolution limits the increase in the assessed value of a taxpayer's real property for property tax purposes as a result of a county-wide reappraisal and provides a state credit of at least three hundred dollars ($300) against ad valorem property tax on a homestead.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCING

House Joint Resolution 1012. The resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to provide two new programs for local government financing in Arkansas. First, the proposal authorizes cities and counties to form redevelopment districts and to issue bonds for redevelopment projects in the districts. A redevelopment project means an undertaking for eliminating, or preventing the development or spread of, slums or blighted, deteriorated, or deteriorating areas; for discouraging the loss of commerce, industry, or employment; or for increasing employment. The districts could issue bonds to finance improvements. Bond financing for projects would be financed by ad valorem property taxes levied against any increase in the assessed value of property in the district. Second, the resolution proposes to allow municipalities and counties to incur short-term financing obligations having a term not to exceed five (5) years for the purpose of constructing or acquiring real property or tangible personal property with a useful life of more than 1 year. The aggregate principal amount of short-term financing incurred by a municipality or a county cannot exceed five percent (5%) of the assessed value of property located in the municipality or two and one half percent (2½ %) of the assessed value of property located in the county. The total annual principal and interest payments in each fiscal year on all short-term financing is to be paid from the general revenues for the fiscal year and will not affect the authority of municipalities and counties to issue other bonds and debt obligations.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY - MEETING DATES

General Assembly	Year	Dates in Session	Total Days
59th	1953	January 12 - March 12	60
60th	1955	January 10 - March 10	60
61st	1957	January 14 - March 1	60
61st - FES	1957	March 25 - March 27	3
61st - SES	1958	August 26 - September 12	18
62nd	1959	January 12 - March 12	60
62nd - FES	1960	January 19 - January 21	3
63rd	1961	January 9 - March 9	60
63rd - FES	1961	August 24 - September 1	9
63rd - SES	1961	September 18 - September 21	4
64th	1963	January 14 - March 14	60
64th - FES	1964	March 24 - March 27	4
65th	1965	January 11 - March 11	
65th - FES	1965	May 24 - June 8	16
65th - SES	1965	November 2 - November 4	2½
65th - TES	1965	November 4 - November 6	2½
66th	1967	January 9 - Recessed March 9, Reconv. March 27, Adjourned March 31	65
66th - FES	1968	February 5 - February 21	17
66th - SES	1968	May 20 - May 30	11
67th	1969	January 13 - Recessed April 11, Reconv. May 5 - Adjourned May 8	93
67th - FES	1970	March 2 - March 7	6
68th	1971	January 11 - Recessed April 2, Reconv April 19 - Adjourned April 19	82
68th - FES	1972	February 7 - February 16	10
69th	1973	January 8 - Recess on April 5 until April 24- Recess until Jan 14, 1974 - Adjourned Jan 14, 1974	88
69th - FES	1974	June 24 - Recessed July 12 - Reconv. Aug. 1 - Adjourned Aug 1	19
70th	1975	January 13 - March 27 - Recess Until Apr. 9 - Adjourned Apr. 9	74
70th - Exten	1976	January 12 - January 28	17

GENERAL ASSEMBLY - MEETING DATES

General Assembly	Year	Dates in Session	Total Days
70th - FES	1976	September 8 - September 10	3
71st	1977	January 10 - Recessed March 18 Until Apr 6 - Recessed Apr 6 until Aug 14 - Adjourned Aug 14	68
71st - FES	1977	August 2 - August 5	4
72nd	1979	January 8 - Recessed April 4, Reconv. Apr. 20 - Adjourned Apr 20	87
72nd - EXT.	1980	January 7 - January 17	10½
72nd - FES	1980	January 17 - January 24	7½
72nd - SES	1980	April 15 - April 18	4
73rd	1981	January 12, - March 18	66
73rd - FES	1981	November 16 - November 25	10
74th	1983	January 10 - Recessed on March 18, Reconv April 4 - Adjn. Apr. 4	68
74th - FES	1983	October 4 - November 10	37
75th	1985	January 14 - Recessed March 22, Reconv. March 29 - Adjn. March 29	68
75th - FES	1985	June 17 - June 21	5
75th - SES	1986	April 28 - May 1	4
76th	1987	January 12 - Recessed April 3 - Reconv. April 20 - Adjn. April 20	82
76th - FES	1987	June 2 - June 5	4
76th - SES	1987	October 6 - October 9	4
76th - TES	1988	January 26 - February 5	11
76th - 4thES	1988	July 11 - July 14, 1988	4
77th	1989	January 9 - March 17 - Recess until April 3 - Adjn. April 3	68
77th - FES	1989	June 20 - June 23	4
77th - SES	1989	July 25 - July 27	3
77th - TES	1989	October 23 - November 3	12
78th	1991	January 14 - March 27 - Recess until April 15 - Adjn. April 15	73
78th - FES	1992	February 24 - February 27 - Recess until March 4 - Adjn March 4	4
78th - SES	1992	December 14 - December 18	5
79th	1993	January 11 - April 8 - Recess until May 14 - Adjn May 14	88

GENERAL ASSEMBLY - MEETING DATES

General Assembly	Year	Dates in Session	Total Days
79th - FES	1994	February 28 - March 2	3
79th - SES	1994	August 15 - August 24	10
80th	1995	January 9 - April 7 - Recess until April 28 - Adjn April 28	89
80th - FES	1995	October 17 - October 20	4
81st	1997	January 13 - April 17 - Recess until May 2 - Adjn. May 2	96
82nd	1999	January 11 – April 9 – Recess until April 30 – Adjn. April 30	89

INDEX

911 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS CENTERS . . *(See Emergency Services)* 58
ABANDONED AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDE DISPOSAL ADVISORY BOARD . . *(See Agriculture/Pesticides)* ..2
ABANDONED AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDES . . *(See Environmental Law)* 58
ABANDONED PESTICIDES FUND . . *(See Agriculture/Pesticides)* 2
ABANDONED PROPERTY . . *(See Property)* 93
ABSCONDING . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 28
ABSENTEE BALLOTS . . *(See Election Laws)* 51-53
ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION . . *(See Education/Higher Education)* 47
ACCOUNTANTS . . *(See Business Law)* 8
ACT ASSESSMENT ASSISTANCE PILOT PROGRAM ACT OF 1999 . . *(See Education/General Education)* 40
ACUPUNCTURE . . *(See Health)* 66
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT . . *(See State Agencies Generally)* 108
ADOPTION 1
ADULT ABUSE 1
ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, JOINT COMMITTEE ON . . *(See General Assembly)* 65
ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION TAX . . *(See Taxes)* 114
ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION TAX . . *(See Tourism)* 123
ADVOCACY CENTERS . . *(See Children)* 11
AFLATOXIN LEVELS . . *(See Agriculture/Grain And Seed)* 2
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS . . *(See Education/General Education)* 40
AGRICULTURE RECOGNITION DAY . . *(See Agriculture)* 1
AGRICULTURE 1-3
AIR FORCE OFFICERS . . *(See Military)* 87
AIR QUALITY . . *(See Environmental Law)* 58
AIRCRAFT . . *(See Taxes/Sales And Use Tax/Exemption)* 120
AIRPORTS 3
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES 4-6
ALDERMAN . . *(See Cities/Elections)* 16
ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTIONS COMMISSION . . *(See State Agencies Generally/Miscellaneous Provisions)* 110
ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE . . *(See Health)* 66
AMBULANCE SERVICES . . *(See Emergency Services)* 58
AMBULANCES . . *(See Emergency Services)* 58
AMPUTEE FOUNDATION, ARKANSAS . . *(See Health)* 66
AMUSEMENT DEVICES 6
AMUSEMENTS STUDY COMMISSION . . *(See Amusement Devices)* 6
ANATOMICAL GIFTS . . *(See Health)* 66
ANHYDROUS AMMONIA . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 28
ANIMAL SHELTERS . . *(See Animals)* 6
ANIMALS 6-7
ANNEXATION . . *(See Cities)* 14
ANTIQUE MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE PLATE . . *(See Motor Vehicles/License Plates)* 89
APPRENTICESHIP COMMITTEE, STATE . . *(See Plumbing)* 92

ARCHITECTS, STATE BOARD OF . . *(See State Agencies Generally/Miscellaneous Provisions)* 110
ARKANSAS CODE 7
ARKANSAS ENTERPRISE ZONE ACT OF 1993 . . *(See Taxes/Sales And Use Tax)* 120
ARKANSAS PUBLIC ACCOUNTANCY ACT . . *(See Business Law/Accountants)* 8
ARKANSAS SALES TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE . . *(See Taxes/Sales And Use Tax)* 122
ARKIDS FIRST . . *(See Health)* 67
ASBESTOS REMOVAL . . *(See Environmental Law)* 59
ATHLETE AGENTS 7
ATHLETIC COMMISSION, ARKANSAS STATE . . *(See State Agencies Generally/Miscellaneous Provisions)* 110
AUCTIONEERS 7
BAIL BONDS 8
BALLOT . . *(See Election Laws)* 53
BANKS . . *(See Business Law)* 8
BATTERY IN THE SECOND DEGREE . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 28
BED AND BREAKFAST PRIVATE CLUBS . . *(See Alcoholic Beverages)* 4
BEER AND WINE PERMITS . . *(See Alcoholic Beverages)* 4
BEER FESTIVAL PERMITS . . *(See Alcoholic Beverages)* 4
BEER WHOLESALERS . . *(See Alcoholic Beverages/Advertising)* 4
BINGO OPERATIONS . . *(See Taxes/Sales And Use Tax)* 119
BIOFUEL PRODUCERS . . *(See Taxes/Income Tax/Credit)* 115
BLIND FACILITY VENDORS . . *(See Public Property/Building Services, State)* 94
BLIND SCHOOL . . *(See Education)* 39
BODY ARMOR POSSESSION . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 29
BOILERS . . *(See Labor)* 82
BOND GUARANTY PROGRAMS . . *(See Economic Development)* 37
BRANDING . . *(See Agriculture)* 1
BREWERIES . . *(See Alcoholic Beverages)* 4
BUILDING SERVICES, STATE . . *(See Public Property)* 94
BURNING . . *(See Forestry/Forestry Commission, Arkansas)* 64
BUSINESS CORPORATION ACT, ARKANSAS . . *(See Business Law/Corporations)* 9
BUSINESS LAW 8-11
CAMPAIGN FINANCE . . *(See Ethics)* 62
CAMPS . . *(See Labor/Minimum Wage And Overtime Exemptions)* 83
CANCER TREATMENT . . *(See Health)* 67
CAPITAL GAINS TAX . . *(See TAXES/INCOME TAX/EXEMPTION)* 116
CAPITOL ARTS AND GROUNDS COMMISSION . . *(See State* Capitol) 114
CAR RENTAL COMPANIES . . *(See Motor Vehicles)* 87
CATFISH PROMOTION BOARD . . *(See Agriculture)* 1
CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS . . *(See Business Law)* 8
CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS . . *(See Consumer Protection)* 20
CHARTER SCHOOLS . . *(See Education/General Education)* 40
CHECK-CASHERS . . *(See Consumer Protection)* 20
CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE . . *(See Children/Child Maltreatment)* 11
CHILD CARE . . *(See Children)* 11
CHILD MALTREATMENT . . *(See Children)* 11
CHILD OFFENDER REGISTRATION . . *(See Children)* 12
CHILD SUPPORT . . *(See Children)* 12
CHILD WELFARE AGENCY LICENSING ACT . . *(See Children)* 12
CHILDREN 11-14
CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS, ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF . . *(See Health)* 67
CITIES 14-18

CITY TREASURER . . *(See Cities)* 15
CITY-MANAGER GOVERNMENT . . *(See Cities)* 15
CIVIL AIR PATROL LICENSE PLATE . . *(See Motor Vehicles/License Plates)* 89
CIVIL LAW AND PROCEDURE 18-19
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION . . *(See Cities)* 15
CLAIMS COMMISSION, ARKANSAS STATE . . *(See State Agencies Generally/Miscellaneous Provisions)* 110
CODE REVISION COMMISSION, ARKANSAS . . *(See Arkansas Code)* 7
COIN OPERATED AMUSEMENTS . . *(See Taxes)* 114
COLLECTION AGENCIES . . *(See Business Law)* 9
COMMUNITY ALCOHOL SAFETY PROGRAM . . *(See Health)* 67
COMMUNITY COLLEGES . . *(See Education/Higher Education)* 47
COMMUNITY PUNISHMENT . . *(See Corrections)* 21
CONCEALED HANDGUNS . . *(See Firearms)* 63
CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MONUMENT . . *(See State Capitol)* 114
CONSTABLES . . *(See Local Legislation/Pulaski County)* 86
CONSUMER PROTECTION 20-21
CONSUMER TELEPHONE PRIVACY ACT . . *(See Consumer Protection)* 20
CONTRACTORS 21
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 29
COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT . . *(See Education/General Education)* 40
CORONER'S INVESTIGATIONS . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure/Immunity)* 19
CORPORATIONS . . *(See Business Law)* 9-10
CORRECTION, DEPARTMENT OF . . *(See Corrections)* 21
CORRECTIONS 21-22
CORRESPONDENCE COURSES . . *(See Education/Higher Education)* 47
COTTON MUSEUM . . *(See Museums)* 92
COUNTIES 22-27
COUNTY AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT . . *(See Economic Development)* 38
COUNTY ASSESSORS . . *(See Counties)* 22
COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION . . *(See Education/General Education)* 40
COUNTY CLERK . . *(See Counties)* 22
COUNTY EQUALIZATION BOARDS . . *(See Counties)* 22-23
COUNTY JAILS . . *(See Counties)* 23
COUNTY JUDGES' SALARY . . *(See Counties)* 23
COUNTY MUSEUM COMMISSION . . *(See Counties)* 23
COUNTY MUSEUM COMMISSION . . *(See Museums)* 92
COUNTY QUORUM COURT . . *(See Counties)* 23
COUNTY ROAD FUNDS . . *(See Counties /Fiscal Affairs)* 24
COUNTY SHERIFF . . *(See Counties)* 23
COUNTY TREASURER . . *(See Counties)* 24
COURT COSTS . . *(See Courts)* 27
COURT OF APPEALS . . *(See Courts)* 27
COURTS 27-28
CPVC PIPE . . *(See Contractors)* 21
CRAFT TRAINING EDUCATION PROGRAM . . *(See Education)* 39
CRATER OF DIAMONDS STATE PARK . . *(See Environmental Law/Mining)* 60
CRATER OF DIAMONDS STATE PARK . . *(See Tourism)* 123
CREDIT CARD SOLICITATION . . *(See Consumer Protection)* 20
CREDIT CARDS . . *(See Consumer Protection)* 20
CRIME INFORMATION CENTER, ARKANSAS . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 29
CRIME LABORATORY, STATE . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 30

CRIME VICTIMS ADVISORY BOARD . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 30
CRIME VICTIMS REPARATIONS BOARD . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 30
CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE 28-35
CRITTENDEN COUNTY . . *(See Local Legislation)* 85
CROWLEY'S RIDGE SCENIC HIGHWAY . . *(See Highways/Scenic Highways)* 76
CUSTODY . . *(See Children)* 12
DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES CORPORATION, ARKANSAS . . *(See Business Law/Corporations)* 9
DEAF PERSONS . . *(See Disabled Persons)* 36
DECEDENTS' ESTATES 35-36
DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES . . *(See Consumer Protection)* 20
DEFIBRILLATORS . . *(See Health)* 67
DELTA CULTURAL CENTER POLICY ADVISORY BOARD . . *(See State Agencies Generally/Miscellaneous Provisions)* 110
DENTAL EXAMINERS, ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF . . *(See Health/Dentists)* 67
DENTISTS . . *(See Health)* 67
DEPENDENCY-NEGLECT, CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP CASES . . *(See Children/Legal Counsel)* 13
DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure/Prosecuting Attorneys)* 33
DETACHMENT OF LANDS . . *(See Cities)* 16
DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED . . *(See Health)* 68
DIGITAL CHECK IMAGES . . *(See State Agencies Generally)* 109
DISABILITIES, CHILDREN WITH . . *(See Education/General Education)* 40
DISABLED PERSONS 36
DISABLED VOTERS . . *(See Election Laws)* 54
DISASTER RELIEF . . *(See Emergency Services)* 58
DISPENSING OPTICIANS, BOARD OF . . *(See Health)* 68
DISTANCE LEARNING . . *(See Education/Higher Education)* 48
DISTRICT FAIR BOARDS . . *(See Agriculture)* 1
DIVORCE . . *(See Domestic Relations)* 36
DOCTOR TITLE . . *(See Health)* 68
DOG RACING . . *(See Racing)* 95-96
DOMESTIC ABUSE . . *(See Domestic Relations)* 37
DOMESTIC BATTERY . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 30-31
DOMESTIC RELATIONS 36-37
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - BIRTHDAY . . *(See General Assembly)* 65
DRAINAGE DISTRICTS . . *(See Improvement Districts)* 76
DRAM SHOP LAW . . *(See Alcoholic Beverages)* 4
DRIVER'S LICENSE . . *(See Motor Vehicles)* 87
DRIVER'S LICENSE RECORD ACCESS . . *(See Military)* 87
DRIVING OFFENSES GENERALLY . . *(See Motor Vehicles)* 88
DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 31
DRUG ABUSE COUNSELORS . . *(See Health)* 68
DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION . . *(See Education/General Education)* 41
DRUG FREE WORKPLACES . . *(See Labor)* 82
DRUG PARAPHERNALIA . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure/Controlled Substances)* 29
DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAMS . . *(See Health)* 68
DUCKS UNLIMITED LICENSE PLATE . . *(See Motor Vehicles/License Plates)* 89
EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMISSION, ARKANSAS . . *(See Children)* 12
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION . . *(See Education)* 39
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION COMMISSION . . *(See Education/Early Childhood Education)* 39
EARTHQUAKES 37

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF ARKANSAS FUND COMMISSION . . *(See Economic Development)* 38
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 37-38
EDUCATION 39-51
EDUCATION, STATE BOARD OF . . *(See Education/General Education)* 41
EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE TRUST FUND . . *(See Education/General Education)* 41
EDUCATIONAL IRA . . *(See Education)* 39
EFFECTIVE SCHOOL PROJECT ACT . . *(See Education/General Education)* 41
EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT NORTH/SOUTH . . *(See Local Legislation)* 85
EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT-NORTH . . *(See Local Legislation)* 85
ELDER CARE . . *(See Health)* 68-69
ELECTION COMMISSIONERS, COUNTY BOARD OF . . *(See Counties)* 24
ELECTION COMMISSIONERS, STATE BOARD OF . . *(See Election Laws)* 54
ELECTION LAWS 51-57
ELECTION OFFICIALS . . *(See Election Laws)* 54
ELECTRIC UTILITIES . . *(See Utilities)* 124
ELECTRICIANS 57
ELECTRONIC RECORDS STUDY COMMISSION, ARKANSAS . . *(See State Agencies Generally)* 109
ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES 57
ELK PERMIT . . *(See Hunting)* 76
EMBALMERS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS 57
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF . . *(See Emergency Services)* 58
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS . . *(See Emergency Services)* 58
EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND . . *(See Emergency Services)* 58
EMERGENCY SERVICES 58
EMPLOYEE LEASING FIRMS . . *(See Insurance)* 78
EMPLOYMENT REFERENCES . . *(See Labor)* 82
ENTERPRISE ZONE ACT OF 1993, ARKANSAS . . *(See Economic Development)* 38
ENVIRONMENTAL AUDITS . . *(See Environmental Law)* 59
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW 58-62
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF . . *(See Environmental Law)* 59
EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA . . *(See Animals)* 6
ETHICS 62-63
EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 31
EXISTING WORKFORCE TRAINING ACT OF 1995, ARKANSAS . . *(See Economic Development)* 38
EXPUNGEMENT . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 31
FALSE IDENTITY . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 31
FEDERAL ADOPTION AND SAFE FAMILIES ACT . . *(See Adoption)* 1
FERAL HOGS . . *(See Hunting)* 76
FERTILIZER TONNAGE FEES . . *(See Agriculture)* 2
FETAL PROTECTION ACT . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 31
FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT . . *(See Local Legislation)* 85
FINANCIAL IDENTITY FRAUD . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 31
FIRE AND POLICE PENSION REVIEW BOARD . . *(See Retirement)* 97
FIRE ANT ADVISORY BOARD, ARKANSAS . . *(See State Agencies Generally/Miscellaneous Provisions)* 110
FIRE EXTINGUISHER BOARD . . *(See State Agencies Generally/Miscellaneous Provisions)* 110
FIRE MARSHAL, STATE . . *(See State Agencies Generally/Miscellaneous Provisions)* 110
FIRE PROTECTION 63
FIREARMS 63-64
FIREMEN'S AND POLICE OFFICERS' PENSION AND RELIEF FUND . . *(See Retirement)* 97
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT . . *(See Local Legislation)* 85
FLEA MARKETS AND SWAP MEETS 64

FOOD SERVICES . . *(See Health)* 69
FORECLOSURE . . *(See Civil Law And Procedure)* 18
FOREIGN BUSINESS TRUSTS . . *(See Business Law)* 10
FOREIGN LANGUAGE . . *(See Education/General Education)* 42
FORESTERS REGISTRATION . . *(See Forestry)* 64
FORESTRY COMMISSION, ARKANSAS . . *(See Forestry)* 64
FORESTRY 64-65
FORGERY . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 32
FOSTER CARE . . *(See Children)* 13
FRANCHISE TAX . . *(See Taxes)* 115
FRAUD, INVESTIGATIONS OF . . *(See Health)* 69
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 65
FUNERALS . . *(See Decedents' Estates)* 36
GAMBLING DEBTS . . *(See Civil Law And Procedure)* 18
GAME AND FISH COMMISSION LICENSE PLATE . . *(See Motor Vehicles/License Plates)* 89
GAME AND FISH COMMISSION . . *(See State Agencies Generally/Miscellaneous Provisions)* 110
GAMMA-HYDROXYBUTYRATE . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure/Controlled Substances)* 29
GAS PIPELINES . . *(See Utilities/Oil And Gas Commission, Arkansas)* 124
GENERAL ASSEMBLY 65-66
GERONTOLOGY CENTER . . *(See Health)* *69*
GRAIN AND SEED . . *(See Agriculture)* *2*
GREAT RIVER ROAD . . *(See Highways/Scenic* Highways*)* 76
GROUP HEALTH PLANS . . *(See Insurance/Health Insurance)* 79
GUARDIANSHIP . . *(See Children)* 13
HABILITATIVE SERVICES CORPORATIONS . . *(See Business Law/Corporations)* 9
HANDICAPPED PARKING . . *(See MOTOR VEHICLES/PARKING)* 90
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION . . *(See Environmental Law)* 60
HAZARDOUS SITES . . *(See Environmental Law)* 60
HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITIES . . *(See Environmental Law)* 60
HEALTH CARRIERS . . *(See Insurance)* 79
HEALTH EDUCATION . . *(See Health)* *69*
HEALTH INSURANCE . . *(See Insurance)* 79
HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS . . *(See Insurance)* 79-80
HEALTH RESOURCES COMMISSION, ARKANSAS . . *(See Health)* 69
HEALTH 66-75
HEARING AID DISPENSERS . . *(See Health)* 70
HEARING TESTS FOR NEWBORNS . . *(See Health/Hospitals)* 70
HEATING, VENTILATION, AIR CONDITIONER, AND REFRIGERATION . . *(See State Agencies Generally/Miscellaneous Provisions)* 110
HIGHER EDUCATION . . *(See Education)* 46-50
HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD, ARKANSAS . . *(See Education/Higher Education)* 48
HIGHER EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF . . *(See Education/Higher Education)* 48
HIGHWAY BONDS . . *(See Taxes)* 115
HIGHWAY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM . . *(See Retirement)* 97
HIGHWAY SAFETY . . *(See Highways)* 75
HIGHWAYS 75-76
HOME INSPECTORS . . *(See Consumer Protection)* 20
HOME SCHOOLING . . *(See Education/General Education)* 42
HOME VISITATION PROGRAM . . *(See Health/Nurses)* 72
HOMES INSPECTOR ADVISORY BOARD . . *(See Consumer Protection/Home Inspectors)* 20
HOMES INSPECTOR ADVISORY BOARD . . *(See State Agencies Generally/Miscellaneous Provisions)* 111

HOMESTEAD TAX CREDIT . . *(See Taxes/Property Tax)* 119
HOMESTEAD TAX REFUND . . *(See Taxes/Income Tax)* 116
HORSE RACING . . *(See Racing)* 96-97
HOSPICE COVERAGE . . *(See Insurance)* 80
HOSPITALS . . *(See Health)* 70
HUNTING 76
HVACR LICENSES . . *(See Contractors)* 21
HYDROGEN SULFIDE EMISSIONS . . *(See Environmental Law)* 60
IGNITION INTERLOCK RESTRICTED LICENSE *(See Criminal Law And Procedure/Driving While Intoxicated)* 31
IMMUNITY . . *(See Civil Law And Procedure)* 19
IMMUNIZATIONS . . *(See Health/Nursing Homes)* 72
IMPRISONMENT DEFINED . . *(See Corrections)* 22
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS 76-77
INCOME TAX . . *(See Taxes)* 115-117
INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES . . *(See Election Laws)* 55
INDIGENTS . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 32
INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS . . *(See Welfare Reform)* 126
INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS . . *(See Retirement)* 98
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BONDS . . *(See Economic Development)* 38
INFORMATION AGE COMMUNITIES, COMMISSION ON . . *(See Information Technology)* 77
INFORMATION NETWORK OF ARKANSAS *.(See Information Technology/Information Systems, Department Of)* 77
INFORMATION SCIENCE AND SYSTEMS ENGINEERING . . *(See Information Technology)* 77
INFORMATION SYSTEMS, DEPARTMENT OF . . *(See Information Technology)* 77
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TASKFORCE, ARKANSAS . . *(See Information Technology)* 78
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY 77
INITIATIVE PETITIONS . . *(See Election Laws)* 55
INSTITUTION FOR ADVOCACY FOR THE BLIND, ARKANSAS . . *(See Disabled Persons/Visually Impaired Persons)* 36
INSTITUTION FOR THE ADVOCACY OF THE DEAF, ARKANSAS *(See Disabled Persons/Deaf Persons)* 36
INSURANCE AGENTS . . *(See Insurance)* 80
INSURANCE COMMISSIONER . . *(See Insurance)* 80
INSURANCE DEPARTMENT . . *(See Insurance)* 80
INSURANCE HOLDING COMPANY REGULATORY ACT . . *(See Insurance)* 81
INSURANCE PLAN OVERSIGHT . . *(See Health)* 70
INSURANCE POLICY HOLDERS . . *(See Insurance)* 81
INSURANCE PREMIUM TAXES . . *(See Taxes)* 117
INSURANCE 78-82
INSURERS . . *(See Insurance)* 81
INTANGIBLE PROPERTY . . *(See Property)* 93
INTEGRATED JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEMS COORDINATING COUNCIL . . *(See State Agencies Generally/Miscellaneous Provisions)* 111
INTERFERENCE WITH VISITATION . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 32
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS . . *(See Counties)* 24
INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS . . *(See Taxes/Income Tax)* 117
INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS . . *(See Business Law/Partnerships)* 10
IRRIGATION, DRAINAGE, AND LEVEE DISTRICTS . . *(See Water Resources)* 125
IZARD COUNTY . . *(See Local Legislation)* 85
JAILS . . *(See Counties)* 25
JOINT COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY . . *(See Counties)* 25
JUDICIAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM . . *(See Retirement)* 98
JURORS . . *(See Courts)* 27

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURTS . . *(See Courts)* 27
JUVENILE ACCOMPLICES . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure/Sentencing)* 34
JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITIES . . *(See Children)* 13
JUVENILE OFFENDERS . . *(See Children)* 13
JUVENILE OMBUDSMAN DIVISION . . *(See Children/Juvenile Offenders)* 34
LABOR 82-83
LASER POINTERS . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 32
LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING, COMMISSION ON . . *(See Law Enforcement)* 84
LAW ENFORCEMENT 84
LEAD-BASED PAINT . . *(See Environmental Law)* 60
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL . . *(See General Assembly)* 66
LIMITATION OF ACTIONS . . *(See Civil Law And Procedure)* 19
LIMITED LIABILITY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP . . *(See Business Law)* 10
LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS . . *(See Business Law)* 10
LINCOLN COUNTY . . *(See Local Legislation/Sheriff And Collector)* 87
LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS BOARD 84-85
LITTER CONTROL ACT . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 32
LOCAL LEGISLATION 85-87
LOCAL POLICE AND FIRE RETIREMENT SYSTEM . . *(See Retirement)* 99-100
LOGAN COUNTY . . *(See Local Legislation)* 86
LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES . . *(See Health)* 70-71
MADISON COUNTY . . *(See Local Legislation/Sheriff And Collector)* 86
MANUFACTURED HOMES 87
MARINE SANITATION . . *(See Health)* 71
MARRIAGE LICENSE . . *(See Counties/County Clerk)* 22
MASSAGE THERAPY, ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF . . *(See State Agencies Generally/Miscellaneous Provisions)* 111
MATERIALMEN'S LIENS . . *(See Business Law)* 10
MAXILLOFACIAL PROCEDURES . . *(See Health/Dentists)* 68
MEDAL OF HONOR COMMISSION, ARKANSAS . . *(See State Agencies Generally/Miscellaneous Provisions)* ... 111
MEDICAID . . *(See Health)* 71
MEDICAL BOARD, ARKANSAS STATE . . *(See Health/Physicians)* 74
MEDICAL RECORD ACCESS . . *(See Health)* 71
MEDICAL WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES . . *(See Environmental Law)* 60
MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE . . *(See Health)* 71
MENTAL ILLNESS TASK FORCE . . *(See Health)* 72
METHADONE/LAAM . . *(See Health/Drug Treatment Programs)* 68
METHAMPHETAMINE . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure/Controlled Substances)* 29
MICROBREWERIES . . *(See Alcoholic Beverages)* 5
MID-AMERICA MUSEUM . . *(See Museums)* 92
MIDWIVES . . *(See Health)* 72
MIGRANT STUDENT RECORD TRANSFER SYSTEM, NATIONAL . . *(See Education/General Education)* 43
MILITARY 87-88
MINIMUM WAGE AND OVERTIME EXEMPTIONS . . *(See Labor)* 83
MINIMUM WAGE LAW . . *(See Labor)* 83
MINING . . *(See Environmental Law)* 60
MINORITY RETENTION PROGRAMS . . *(See Education/Higher Education)* 48
MIXED DRINK TAX . . *(See Alcoholic Beverages)* 5
MORTGAGE LOAN COMPANY AND LOAN BROKER ACT . . *(See Business Law)* 10
MOTOR AND DISTILLATE FUEL TAXES . . *(See Taxes)* 118
MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE . . *(See Insurance)* 81

MOTOR VEHICLE COMMISSION . . *(See Motor Vehicles)* 89
MOTOR VEHICLE LIABILITY INSURANCE . . *(See Motor Vehicles)* 89
MOTOR VEHICLES 87-92
MOTORBOATS OR PERSONAL WATERCRAFT . . *(See Insurance)* 81
MOTORCOACH CARRIERS . . *(See Tourism)* 123
MUNICIPAL COURTS . . *(See Courts)* 27-28
MUNICIPAL FRANCHISE FEES . . *(See Utilities)* 124
MUNICIPAL JUDGES RETIREMENT SYSTEMS . . *(See Retirement)* 100
MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS . . *(See Cities)* 16
MUNICIPAL NON-UNIFORMED PENSION PLANS . . *(See Retirement)* 100-101
MUNICIPAL PROPERTY OWNERS' IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT . . *(See Improvement Districts)* 77
MUSEUMS 92
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP . . *(See Environmental Law//Environmental Quality, Arkansas Department Of)* 59
NATIONAL GUARD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM . . *(See Education/Higher Education)* 48
NATURAL RESOURCES DAMAGES TRUST FUND . . *(See Environmental Law)* 60
NON-BACCALAUREATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, TASK FORCE ON . . *(See Education/Higher Education)* 48
NON-PROFIT CORPORATIONS . . *(See Business Law/Corporations)* 9
NONSUPPORT . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 32
NORTH LITTLE ROCK . . *(See Local Legislation)* 86
NOTARY PUBLICS 92
NUISANCE . . *(See Cities)* 16
NURSE HOME VISITATION . . *(See Health/Prenatal And Infant Care)* 74
NURSES . . *(See Health)* 72
NURSING HOMES . . *(See Health)* 72
NURSING PRACTICE STUDENT LOAN AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM . *(See Education/Higher Education)* ... 48
NURSING, ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF . . *(See Health/Nurses)* 72
OATH . . *(See Cities)* 16
OBSTRUCTING HIGHWAYS . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 33
OIL AND GAS COMMISSION, ARKANSAS . . *(See Utilities)* 124
OPTOMETRY, STATE BOARD OF . . *(See Health)* 72
OUACHITA RIVER COMMISSION . . *(See State Agencies Generally/Miscellaneous Provisions)* 111
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION REFORM, JOINT INTERIM . . *(See Education)* 50
PARENT'S TRAINING . . *(See Education/General Education)* 43
PARKING . . *(See Motor Vehicles)* 90
PAROLE AND PROBATION OFFICERS . . *(See Firearms)* 64
PARTNERSHIPS . . *(See Business Law)* 10
PATRONIZING A PROSTITUTE . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 33
PERFUSIONISTS . . *(See Health)* 73
PEST CONTROL 92
PESTICIDE REMOVAL . . *(See Environmental Law)* 61
PESTICIDES . . *(See Agriculture)* 2
PETROLEUM STORAGE TANKS . . *(See Environmental Law)* 61
PHARMACY . . *(See Health)* 73
PHENYLKETONURIA . . *(See Insurance)* 81
PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVICES, ELECTRIC VEHICLE EQUIPMENT AND FUEL CELLS . . *(See Taxes/Income Tax/Credit)* 115
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS . . *(See Health)* 73
PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 33
PHYSICIANS . . *(See Health)* 73-74

PLUMBING 92
PODIATRISTS . . *(See Health)* 74
POLICE AND FIRE PENSION FUNDS . . *(See Retirement)* 101-103
POLICE CORPS PLANNING COMMISSION, ARKANSAS . . *(See Law Enforcement)* 84
POLLING SITES . . *(See Election Laws)* 55
POLLUTION CONTROL OR ABATEMENT . . *(See Environmental Law)* 61
PORNOGRAPHY . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 33
POST PRISON TRANSFER BOARD . . *(See Corrections)* 22
POSTING AND TRESPASS . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 33
POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY 92
PRENATAL AND INFANT CARE . . *(See Health)* 74
PREPAID FUNERAL CONTRACTS . . *(See Insurance)* 82
PRIVATE CLUBS . . *(See Alcoholic Beverages)* 5
PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS 93
PRIVATE SECURITY AGENCIES LAWS . . *(See Private Investigators)* 93
PROBATION . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 33
PROFESSIONAL BAIL BOND COMPANY AND PROFESSIONAL BAIL BONDSMAN LICENSING BOARD . . *(See Bail Bonds)* 8
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATIONS . . *(See Business Law/Corporations)* 9
PROPERTY OWNERS' IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS . . *(See Improvement Districts)* 77
PROPERTY TAX . . *(See Taxes)* 118-119
PROPERTY 93
PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 33
PROSTATE CANCER, OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE . . *(See Health)* 74
PROTECTION ORDERS 93
PUBLIC DEFENDERS . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 34
PUBLIC EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY BOARD . . *(See Education/General Education)* 45
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM . . *(See Retirement)* 103-105
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES 93-94
PUBLIC FACILITIES BOARDS . . *(See Cities)* 17
PUBLIC HEALTH MASTER DEGREE . . *(See Education/Higher Education)* 49
PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITIES . . *(See Cities)* 17
PUBLIC PROPERTY 94-95
PUBLIC ROADS IMPROVEMENTS CREDIT ACT . . *(See Taxes/Income Tax)* 117
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION COUNCIL, ARKANSAS . . *(See State Agencies Generally/Miscellaneous Provisions)* 111
PUBLIC WORKS . . *(See Public Property)* 95
PULASKI COUNTY . . *(See Local Legislation)* 86
PURCHASING LAWS . . *(See Public Property)* 95
PUTATIVE FATHER REGISTRY . . *(See Children)* 14
PUTATIVE FATHERS . . *(See Adoption /Confidential Information)* 1
PYGMALION COMMISSION, ARKANSAS . . *(See Education/General Education)* 45
QUARRIES . . *(See Environmental Law/Mining)* 60
RACING FACILITIES . . *(See Motor Vehicles)* 90
RACING 95-97
RADIATION TECHNICIANS . . *(See Health)* 74
REAL ESTATE COMMISSION, ARKANSAS . . *(See State Agencies Generally/Miscellaneous Provisions)* 111
REAL ESTATE TAXES . . *(See Property)* 93
RECYCLING FUND . . *(See Environmental Law/Solid Waste Management)* 61
RED RIVER COMMISSION . . *(See State Agencies Generally/Miscellaneous Provisions)* 111
REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITIES . . *(See* Airports*)* 3

RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES . . *(See Health)* 74
RESIDENTIAL CONTRACTORS . . *(See Contractors)* 21
RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS . . *(See Civil Law And Procedure)* 19
RESTAURANTS . . *(See Health)* 75
RETIREMENT LEGISLATION . . *(See General Assembly)* 66
RETIREMENT 97-108
REVISED LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS . . *(See Business Law/Partnerships)* 10
RICE RESEARCH AND PROMOTION BOARD . . *(See Agriculture)* 3
RUNOFF ELECTIONS . . *(See Election Laws)* 55-56
RURAL ADVOCACY, OFFICE OF . . *(See State Agencies Generally/Miscellaneous Provisions)* 111
RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION . . *(See State Agencies Generally/Miscellaneous Provisions)* 111
RURAL FIRE PROTECTION CORPORATION . . *(See Business Law/Corporations)* 9
RURAL HEALTH SERVICE GRANTS . . *(See Health)* 75
RURAL PRACTICE GRANTS . . *(See Health/Physicians)* 74
RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE ACT . . *(See Utilities/Telecommunications)* 125
RURAL WATERWORKS FACILITIES BOARDS . . *(See Water Resources)* 125
SALES AND USE TAX . . *(See Taxes)* 119-122
SALVAGE TITLE LAW . . *(See Motor Vehicles)* 91
SCENIC HIGHWAYS . . *(See Highways)* 76
SCHOLARSHIPS . . *(See Education/Higher Education)* 49-50
SECURITIES . . *(See Business Law)* 11
SEED PURCHASES . . *(See Agriculture)* 3
SEISMOLOGICAL OBSERVATORY . . *(See Earthquakes)* 37
SENTENCING . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 34
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT EAST/WEST . . *(See Local Legislation)* 86
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT-EAST . . *(See Local Legislation)* 86
SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT NORTH/SOUTH . . *(See Local Legislation)* 86
SEX AND CHILD OFFENDER REGISTRATION . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 35
SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT . . *(See Local Legislation)* 86
SMALL BUSINESS ENTITY TAX PASS THROUGH ACT . . *(See Taxes)* 122
SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION DISABILITY DETERMINATION, STATE DEPARTMENT OF . . *(See State Agencies Generally/Miscellaneous Provisions)* 111
SOCIAL WORK . . *(See Health)* 75
SOD AND NURSERY PRODUCT PRODUCTION . . *(See Agriculture)* 3
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION *(See State Agencies Generally/Miscellaneous Provisions)* 112
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT . . *(See Environmental Law)* 61
SOYBEAN PROMOTION BOARD, ARKANSAS . . *(See Agriculture)* 3
SPARTA AQUIFER . . *(See Environmental Law)* 61
SPEEDING . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 35
STATE AGENCIES FACILITIES ACQUISITION ACT . . *(See Public Property)* 95
STATE AGENCIES GENERALLY 108-114
STATE CAPITOL 114
STATE CHARTERED TRUST COMPANIES . . *(See Business Law)* 11
STATE EMPLOYEE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL PERSONNEL BOARD, ARKANSAS . . *(See State Agencies Generally/Miscellaneous Provisions)* 112
STATE EMPLOYEES . . *(See Public Employees)* 93-94
STATE POLICE COMMISSION, ARKANSAS . . *(See Law Enforcement)* 84
STATE POLICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM . . *(See Retirement)* 105-106
STATE POLICE, DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS . . *(See Law Enforcement)* 84
STATEWIDE RADIO SYSTEM WORK GROUP . . *(See State Agencies Generally/Miscellaneous Provisions)* 112
STATUTORY FORECLOSURE ACT . . *(See Civil Law And Procedure/Foreclosure)* 18

STORAGE TANKS . . *(See Environmental Law)* 62
STORAGE TANKS, ABOVE-GROUND . . *(See Environmental Law)* 62
STORAGE TANKS, UNDERGROUND . . *(See Environmental Law)* 62
STREET RODS LICENSE PLATE . . *(See Motor Vehicles/License Plates)* 89
SUBCHAPTER T CORPORATIONS . . *(See Business Law/Corporations)* 10
SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMS . . *(See Education/General Education)* 46
SUNDAY SALES . . *(See Alcoholic Beverages)* 6
SUPREME COURT LIBRARY . . *(See Courts)* 28
TAMPERING WITH A PUBLIC RECORD . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 35
TAX-DEFERRED TUITION SAVINGS PROGRAM, ARKANSAS . . *(See Taxes/Income Tax)* 117
TAXES 114-122
TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM . . *(See Retirement)* 106-108
TECHNICAL CAREERS STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM . *(See Education/Workforce Education)* 51
TEENAGE PREGNANCY . . *(See Health)* 75
TELECOMMUNICATIONS . . *(See Utilities)* 125
TELEMARKETER . . *(See Consumer Protection)* 20
TELEPHONE SOLICITATION . . *(See Consumer Protection)* 20
TERMINALLY ILL OR PERMANENTLY UNCONSCIOUS . . *(See Health)* 75
THEFT . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 35
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT . . *(See Local Legislation)* 87
THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT . . *(See Local Legislation)* 87
TOBACCO 122-123
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT . . *(See Tourism)* 123
TOURISM ENTERPRISES . . *(See Tourism)* 123-124
TOURISM 123-124
TOWING AND RECOVERY BOARD . . *(See Motor Vehicles)* 91
TRANSITIONAL EMPLOYMENT BOARD ARKANSAS . . *(See Welfare Reform)* 126
TRUANCY BOARDS . . *(See Education/General Education)* 46
TURNBACK REVENUES . . *(See Counties/Fiscal Affairs)* 24
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT . . *(See Local Legislation)* 87
TWENTY-SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT . . *(See Local Legislation)* 87
UNCLAIMED REDEMPTION MONEY . . *(See Counties/Fiscal Affairs)* 24
UNDERWRITING . . *(See Insurance)* 82
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION . . *(See Labor)* 83
UNIFORM CHILD CUSTODY JURISDICTION AND ENFORCEMENT ACT .*(See Children/Custody)* 12
UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE . . *(See Business Law)* 11
UNIFORM CONFLICTS OF LAWS LIMITATION ACT . . *(See Civil Law And Procedure)* 19
UNIFORM PARTNERSHIP ACT . . *(See Business Law/Partnerships)* 10
UNIFORM PRINCIPAL AND INCOME ACT . . *(See Business Law)* 11
UNIFORM STATUTORY FORM POWER OF ATTORNEY ACT . . *(See Civil Law And Procedure)* 19
USED MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS . . *(See Motor Vehicles)* 91
UTILITIES 124-125
UTILITY FRANCHISE FEES . . *(See Cities)* 18
VALUED POLICY LAW . . *(See Insurance)* 82
VEHICLE REPAIRMEN AND BLACKSMITHS . . *(See Civil Law And Procedure/Priority Of Liens)* 19
VEHICULAR HOMICIDE . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 35
VETERANS . . *(See* Military*)* 87
VETERANS' COMMISSION, ARKANSAS . . *(See Military/Veterans)* 87
VIDEO VOYEURISM . . *(See Criminal Law And Procedure)* 35
VISITATION . . *(See Children)* 14
VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS . . *(See Disabled Persons)* 36

VOCATIONAL CENTERS . . *(See Education/Workforce Education)* 51
VOCATIONAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS . . *(See Education/Workforce Education)* 51
VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER . . *(See Education/Workforce Education)* 51
VOTER QUALIFICATIONS . . *(See Election Laws)* 56-57
VOTER REGISTRATION . . *(See Election Laws)* 57
WAR MEMORIAL STADIUM . . *(See Public Property)* 95
WASTE TIRE GRANT FUND . . *(See Environmental Law)* 62
WASTEWATER . . *(See Environmental Law)* 62
WASTEWATER LICENSING COMMITTEE . . *(See Water Resources)* 125
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS . . *(See Environmental Law)* 62
WATER AND SEWAGE SERVICE . . *(See Cities)* 18
WATER AND SEWAGE SYSTEMS . . *(See Improvement Districts)* 77
WATER AND WATER-GENERATED ELECTRIC COMPANIES . . *(See Cities)* 18
WATER PERMIT FEES . . *(See Water Resources)* 125
WATER PROVIDER CORPORATIONS . . *(See Business Law/Corporations)* 10
WATER PROVIDER CORPORATIONS . . *(See Water Resources)* 125
WATER RESOURCES 125-126
WATER WELL CONTRACTORS . . *(See Water Resources)* 125
WATERCRAFT . . *(See Motor Vehicles)* 91
WATERSHED STUDIES . . *(See Water Resources/Irrigation, Drainage, And Levee Districts)* 125
WATERWORKS COMMISSION . . *(See Cities)* 18
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES 126
WELFARE REFORM 126
WHEAT PROMOTION BOARD, ARKANSAS . . *(See Agriculture)* 3
WHEELCHAIR LEMON LAW . . *(See Consumer Protection)* 21
WHISTLE-BLOWER ACT . . *(See Public Employees/State Employees)* 94
WOMEN'S COMMISSION . . *(See State Agencies Generally/Miscellaneous Provisions)* 112
WORK FORCE 2000 DEVELOPMENT FUND . . *(See Education/Workforce Education)* 51
WORKERS' COMPENSATION . . *(See Labor)* 83
WORKFORCE AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES, STATE BOARD OF *(See Education/Workforce Education)* ... 51
WORKFORCE EDUCATION . . *(See Education)* 50-51
WORKFORCE EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF . . *(See Education/Workforce Education)* 51
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD, ARKANSAS *(See State Agencies Generally/Miscellaneous Provisions)* .. 112
WRECKED VEHICLES . . *(See Motor Vehicles)* 92
WRITE-IN VOTES . . *(See Election Laws)* 57
YEAR 2000 COMPLIANCE . . *(See State Agencies Generally)* 114
YOUTH MEDIATION PROGRAM . . *(See Children)* 14
YOUTH SERVICES, DIVISION OF . . *(See Children)* 14

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SUMMARY OF ACTION ON

GENERAL LEGISLATION

BY THE
82nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

1999

January 11 through
April 30, 1999



May, 1999