STATE OF ARKANSAS
House of Representatives

Newsletter From Rep. R. Scott Richardson
District 13

February 6, 2025

Daily Summary for Thursday, February 6, 2025

On Thursday, the House Education Committee advanced SB142, known as the Bell to Bell, No Cell Act, which would require public schools and open-enrollment charter schools to prohibit students from using cell phones or personal electronic devices during the school day, with certain exceptions outlined for emergencies.

The House passed HB1180, mandating that public schools and open-enrollment charter schools include a human growth and development discussion in an existing health and safety course beginning in the fifth grade. This discussion would feature high-definition ultrasound footage and the "Meet Baby Olivia" video, which illustrates human development in the womb.

In other legislative action, the House approved HB1324, which changes the permissible sales period for fireworks, allowing sales to begin on June 13 instead of June 20 while keeping the existing winter sale period unchanged.

HB1221 was also passed, limiting the validity of ballot initiative titles and petition signatures to the election cycle in which they are approved and collected. Additionally, HB1309 was approved to clarify cost-sharing requirements for breast cancer examinations.

The House also passed SB3, a bill that seeks to eliminate affirmative action programs in state government. The proposed legislation states that the state shall not discriminate against or grant preferential treatment based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in matters related to state employment, public education, or state procurement.

The House is set to reconvene on Monday at 1:30 p.m.