STATE OF ARKANSAS
House of Representatives

Newsletter From Rep. Brian S. Evans
District 68

March 12, 2025

Summary for Wednesday, March 12, 2025

On Wednesday, the House passed HB1682, the Good Neighbor Act. This bill addresses food insecurity by expanding liability protections for food bank donors, including grocers, wholesalers, hotels, motels, restaurants, caterers, farmers, nonprofit distributors, schools, churches, religious organizations, and hospitals. It also protects food banks distributing donated food to communities.

The House also passed HB1275 which seeks to eliminate prior authorization requirements for healthcare services related to a mental health crisis.

The House passed HB1689 which mandates that public high schools and some state-supported post-secondary institutions allow military recruiters access to their facilities.

HB1633, which passed the House, changes the eligibility requirements for extracurricular activities, mandating that students who transfer schools after June 1 following their 9th-grade year must sit out of varsity athletic activities for 365 days. This restriction applies to public, private, and charter schools.

The House also passed SB263, SB300, and SB301.

SB263, the Senate version of the Homestead Property Tax Credit, increases the credit from $500 to $600. SB300 establishes the offense of organized retail theft, and SB301 creates an enhanced penalty for cargo theft, allowing up to an additional 10 years of imprisonment for those convicted.

The House will reconvene Thursday at 1:30 p.m.