STATE OF ARKANSAS
House of Representatives

Newsletter From Rep. Steven Walker
District 27

April 15, 2025

Daily Summary for Tuesday, April 15

On Tuesday, the House of Representatives passed a number of significant bills. Lawmakers approved HB2003, the state's Revenue Stabilization Law, which outlines the Fiscal Year 2026 budget and includes a 2.9% increase in state spending. The budget includes targeted funding increases such as $1 million more for foster care, $4.3 million for juvenile facilities, $13 million for maternal health, and $90 million for Educational Freedom Accounts among other allocations.

The House also adopted SJR11, a proposed constitutional amendment to affirm the right to keep and bear arms in Arkansas. The amendment emphasizes that this right is fundamental and includes the possession and use of ammunition, firearm accessories, and components for any lawful purpose.

Several other bills also advanced. SB290, which was passed, establishes a process for implementing new moratoriums on watersheds while preserving existing ones for the Buffalo River and Lake Maumelle. SB612 creates a private right of action for parents to sue social media platforms if their child suffers harm—including eating disorders or self-harm—due to the design or features of the platform.

The House approved SB568, which aims to boost Arkansas's lithium industry through various tax incentives. Lawmakers also passed HB1671, providing a sales and use tax exemption for qualified non-profit organizations.

Additional bills passed include SB632, which mandates warning labels on hair relaxers containing certain chemicals, and SB450, which allows students in human fetal development courses to view a high-definition ultrasound video. Lastly, the House approved SB640 to reconstitute the State Library Boards.

The House will reconvene for the final time this session at 9 a.m. on Wednesday.