



Arkansas House Newsletter

February 3, 2023

Week 4 of the 2023 Regular Session



In the 4th week of the 2023 Regular Session, the House passed bills impacting taxes, healthcare, education, and criminal justice.

Tax-related bills that passed the House this week included [HB1026](#) and [HB1143](#).

[HB1026](#) prohibits local governments from enacting an income tax.

[HB1143](#) defines “homestead” for purposes of property tax exemption for disabled veterans, surviving spouses, and minor dependent children of disabled veterans.

The House also passed [HB1127](#) which creates the Rural Emergency Hospital Act. This bill would provide a way for rural hospitals in the state to qualify for a new federal designation and be reimbursed at a higher rate for outpatient services.

Other healthcare-related bills now advancing to the [Senate](#) include [HB1042](#), [HB1082](#), and [HB1267](#).

[HB1042](#) enhances coverage of prostate cancer screenings by directing the [Insurance Commissioner](#) to adopt any updated guidelines published by the [National Comprehensive Cancer Network](#).

[HB1082](#) establishes the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact in Arkansas.

[HB1267](#) requires home caregivers to have a specific number of hours in dementia training.

On Wednesday of this week, the House passed three education bills.

[HB1238](#) outlines enhanced transportation funding for school districts.

[HB1156](#) states that public schools and open-enrollment public charter schools shall designate multiple occupancy restrooms for exclusive use by the male sex or exclusive use by the female sex.

[HB1157](#) states that every public school and open-enrollment charter school shall provide parents with digital or hard copy information about local water safety education courses and swimming lessons offered for free or at a reduced price.

In addition, the House passed bills addressing criminal justice issues.

[HB1004](#) amends the [Sex Offender Registration Act](#) by requiring the physical address of the sex offender, including the house or apartment number, to be made public. Currently, only the street name and block number are required.

[HB1208](#) limits the time period during which restricted driving permits are valid for those on probation or parole to one year from the date it was issued.

We will continue to update you on the legislation advancing during the session. You can watch all committee meetings and House floor proceedings at arkansashouse.org.