



Arkansas House Newsletter

December 20, 2024

Update from the Arkansas Legislative Council



This week, the Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC) took significant steps to address issues ranging from fair reimbursement practices to workforce development and support for our veterans.

The ALC approved a proposed rule from the Arkansas Insurance Department requiring health benefit plans and pharmacy benefit managers to reimburse pharmacists at fair and reasonable rates.

In addition, the ALC approved a \$2 million transfer from the Restricted Reserve Fund to support Arkansas Enterprises for the Developmentally Disabled, Inc. These funds will help construct the Jobs 4 You Cabot Workforce Training Center in Lonoke County. This new facility will provide training and employment opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities. The center will create 38 new jobs and train up to 60 adults annually, offering them pathways to meaningful community employment.

To address workforce shortages and reduce reliance on temporary staffing agencies, the ALC approved a plan from the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs to provide one-time bonuses to full-time maintenance employees at the state's veterans homes and cemeteries. This incentive aims to improve recruitment and

retention in these vital roles.

The ALC approved the final recommendations of the Firearms and Concealed Carry Laws Study report. These recommendations, developed after months of review, aim to simplify and clarify Arkansas gun laws, ensuring a better understanding of where and when firearms can be carried legally.

The Arkansas Department of Transportation presented its legislative package to the ALC this week. One key proposal is to increase fines for moving traffic violations in mobile maintenance zones. This measure seeks to enhance safety for road crews and drivers across the state.

Any proposed legislation will be considered in the 2025 Regular Session which begins January 13. You can review the [bills filed so far](#) and the reports presented to [ALC on our website at arkansashouse.org](#).