STATE OF ARKANSAS
House of Representatives

Arkansas House Newsletter

March 31, 2025

Daily Summary for Monday, March 31, 2025

On Monday, the House of Representatives passed several bills addressing a variety of issues. HB1296 ensures that healthcare insurers apply the same cost-sharing requirements for services provided in mobile units as they would in other settings. HB1333 mandates coverage for breastfeeding and lactation consultant services, while HB1290 requires insurers to cover mental health wellness examinations.

House members also approved HB1611, which creates the offense of unlawful rooster fighting, The bill includes provisions to prohibit roosters from being seized unless there is clear and convincing the animals were used in fighting. It also protects seized roosters from euthanasia unless deemed necessary by a licensed veterinarian.

Criminal penalties were also a focus, with HB1844 increasing the penalty for individuals who jump from moving vehicles while fleeing law enforcement. HB1777 expands the offense of sexually grooming a child to include bribery or attempted bribery. HB1779 makes the theft of a postal package from a residence a Class C felony.

Addressing foreign influence, HB1662 prohibits lobbying for certain foreign entities, specifically those associated with China or Russia, and appearing on designated federal watch lists. Economic and workforce-related legislation also passed, including HB1543, which establishes the Workforce Experience Opportunities Act of 2025, allowing SNAP recipients to meet work requirements through volunteer opportunities at public entities receiving state funding.

Consumer protection was another priority, with SB329 creating the Online Marketplace Guarantees Act

SB91 prohibits local governments from regulating rental application fees and deposits for private or commercial properties.

Finally, SB227 amends the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act, defining public meetings and setting requirements for government bodies including provisions for remote gatherings.