STATE OF ARKANSAS
House of Representatives

Arkansas House Newsletter

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This Week at the Capitol

This week at the State Capitol, lawmakers examined issues ranging from state finances and education to childcare, workforce services and Arkansas' growing energy needs.

The Arkansas Legislative Council reviewed the state's financial picture. Gross general revenue collections for the fiscal year are approximately $1.34 billion, up $50.6 million from this time last year. ALC also reviewed the restricted reserve transfer requests of $70 million for Educational Freedom Accounts and $200 million in funding for Medicaid.

The Joint Committee on Energy held an extensive discussion on data center development in Arkansas. Google provided an update on its $4 billion West Memphis data center, while lawmakers heard from utilities and local officials about electricity demand, water use, infrastructure, and protecting existing ratepayers.

Another important conversation focused on access to quality childcare. The Early Childhood Education Task Force heard updates on Arkansas Head Start and Early Head Start and examined early childhood education policy and school readiness. Reliable childcare affects not only children and families, but also parents' ability

to work and employers’ ability to find workers.

This week, the Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee adopted its interim report on the Legislative Study of Workforce and Social Services Reform, outlining recommendations aimed at making Arkansas’ workforce and social services easier to navigate. The recommendations will help guide the subcommittee’s continued work as it develops a legislative package for the 2027 Regular Session.

From managing state finances to preparing our workforce and infrastructure for future growth, these discussions will help guide many of the decisions lawmakers face in the months ahead.