STATE OF ARKANSAS
House of Representatives

Arkansas House Newsletter

November 20, 2026

Legislative Preparations and Workforce Recommendations



With the 2027 Regular Session less than two months away, activity at the State Capitol continues to pick up.

Bill filing for the upcoming session began this week, allowing lawmakers to begin introducing legislation ahead of the January 11 convening date.

On Tuesday, members-elect and returning members of the House gathered for the organizational meeting of the 96th General Assembly. Members selected their seats in the House chamber and received their standing committee assignments. Committee chairs and vice chairs will be announced on the first day of the session.

The Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC) also met this week and reviewed the latest state revenue report. Year-to-date general revenue collections totaled approximately $2.86 billion, an increase of $209.7 million, or 7.9%, compared with the same period last year. Net general revenue available for distribution increased 9.5% to $2.48 billion.

Meanwhile, the ALC Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee reviewed the final report from the Arkansas EARNS study, which examined ways to improve workforce development and public assistance programs. The report highlights Arkansas's labor force participation rate of just 58.5%, among the lowest in the nation. It also identifies a fragmented system in which Arkansans seeking employment assistance, job training, and public benefits must often navigate multiple agencies.

Recommendations include consolidating workforce programs under a new Office of Workforce Solutions within the Department of Commerce, improving coordination between agencies, and reducing administrative duplication. The report also emphasizes addressing barriers to employment, including childcare, transportation, and the loss of public benefits as earnings increase.

These findings could help shape legislative discussions when the General Assembly convenes in January. You can find a link to recently filed legislation and the list of committees for the 96th General Assembly at arkansashouse.org.