




ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE ALERT
Bill Status Report
03-10-2023 - 17:46:04

 - Indicates action since the request date.

Track: Ark Educational Administrators **Request Date:** 0- 0-0000 thru 99-99-9999

HB 1012	Ray, David (R)	Increases the standard deduction for state income taxes from \$2,200 to \$4,400. Remarks: No Position. Track Code(s): FIN Bill History: 11-28-22 H Filed 01-09-23 H Introduced and referred to H-Revenue and Taxation 01-26-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 151 ...H-Revenue and Taxation
HB 1017	Berry, Mark (R) Bryant, Joshua (R)	Includes employees of school districts as eligible for 15 days of paid leave to participate in a US Civil Air Patrol, US Coast Guard, or emergency and rescue services training program. Remarks: Support. Track Code(s): FIN Bill History: 01-26-23 S Passed (Vote: Y: 35/N: 0) 01-26-23 H Enrolled in the House - Sent to Governor 01-30-23 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 20)
HB 1028	Fite, Charlene (R) Petty, Jim (R)	Replaces the term 'child pornography' with 'child sexual abuse material' in the Arkansas Code. Remarks: Support Track Code(s): GOV Bill History: 01-26-23 S Passed (Vote: Y: 35/N: 0) 01-26-23 H Enrolled in the House - Sent to Governor 01-30-23 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 21)
HB 1030	Meeks, Stephen (R)	Requires public schools to admit international exchange students; allows schools to quarantine exchange students, and to expel/suspend those students under certain circumstances. Remarks: AAEA opposed this bill in its current form due to capacity and accountability issues. Update: Amendment filed on 2/14 that addressed some AAEA concerns. Update: After an additional amendment filed on 2/22, AAEA supports this bill. Track Code(s): GOV Bill History: 03-08-23 H On floor for consideration 03-08-23 H Passed (Vote: Y: 96/N: 0) 03-08-23 S Received in the Senate - Referred to S-Education
HB 1032	Fite, Lanny (R) Hickey, Jimmy (R)	Increases the amount of the homestead property tax credit from \$375 to \$425. Remarks: Support. Track Code(s): FIN Bill History: 03-06-23 H On floor for consideration 03-06-23 H Passed (Vote: Y: 99/N: 0) 03-06-23 S Received in the Senate - Referred to S-Revenue and Taxation

HB 1091 Dalby, Carol (R)
 Hickey, Jimmy (R) Provides that earning a high school diploma through the passage of a nationally recognized high school equivalency exam shall be treated the same as a high school diploma for purposes of employment in Arkansas.

Remarks: AAEA supports this bill.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 02-16-23 S Passed (Vote: Y: 34/N: 0)
02-16-23 H Enrolled in the House - Sent to Governor
02-21-23 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 100)

HB 1097 Ray, David (R) Reduces the top marginal income tax rate from 4.9% to 4.5%.

Remarks: No Position.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 01-09-23 H Filed
01-09-23 H Introduced and referred to H-Revenue and Taxation
01-26-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 151 ...H-Revenue and Taxation

HB 1104 Richardson, Scott (R) Requires Arkansas to adopt Daylight Saving Time permanently if the Arkansas Secretary of State determines that federal law has been amended to allow such a change.

Remarks: No position.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 01-25-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 151 ...H-State Agencies
01-26-23 H Motion to withdraw from committee carried H-State Agencies
01-26-23 H Withdrawn from further consideration

HB 1112 Warren, Les (R)
 McKee, Matt (R) Provides that a student residing on a tract of land located in two school districts can attend school in either school district.

Remarks: AAEA supports this bill.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 02-06-23 S Passed (Vote: Y: 33/N: 0)
02-06-23 H Enrolled in the House - Sent to Governor
02-09-23 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 43)

HB 1113 Rose, Ryan (R)
 Dotson, Jim (R) Includes an individual or family licensed or approved as a foster home in the definition of 'foster care' and 'foster parent', amends the number of Succeed Scholarships awarded and scholarship spots available for students in foster care.

Remarks: AAEA supports this bill that removes the cap for scholarship spots available for students in foster care.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 01-11-23 H Filed
01-11-23 H Introduced and referred to H-Education
01-24-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education

HB 1122 Vaught, DeAnn (R)
 Hammer, Kim (R) Requires that the first day of school for public schools be on or after the Monday of the week in which August 19 falls, not earlier than August 14, or later than August 26.

Remarks: Support as amended.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 01-26-23 S Emergency clause adopted
01-26-23 H Enrolled in the House - Sent to Governor
01-30-23 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 26)

HB 1152 Vaught, DeAnn (R) Provides that the first \$50,000 in income received by a public school teacher or open-enrollment charter school teacher is exempt from income tax.

Remarks: Tabled for additional study.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 01-17-23 H Filed
01-17-23 H Introduced and referred to H-Revenue and Taxation
01-26-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 151 ...H-Revenue and Taxation

HB 1154 Johnson, Lee (R) Provides that a provisional license issued under alternative educator preparation programs is equivalent to a standard license for the purpose of applying for a Driver's Education Licensure Endorsement through the Additional Licensure Plan.

Remarks: AAEA supports this bill.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 01-17-23 H Filed
01-17-23 H Introduced and referred to H-Education
01-24-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education

HB 1156 Bentley, Mary (R)
Sullivan, Dan (R) Requires public school districts to make certain designations regarding a student's gender in certain settings.

Remarks: AAEA initially supported this bill that provides consistency statewide in a gray legal area. However, there are concerns regarding an amendment. Update: Support, notifying sponsor of a potential issue.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 03-09-23 S Placed on the Senate calendar
03-09-23 S Amendment 1 adopted
03-13-23 S Placed on the Senate calendar

HB 1157 Bentley, Mary (R)
Dotson, Jim (R) Requires public school districts to provide parents/guardians with student information on the important role that water safety education courses and swimming lessons play in saving lives.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 02-16-23 S Passed (Vote: Y: 33/N: 0)
02-16-23 H Enrolled in the House - Sent to Governor
02-21-23 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 101)

HB 1158 Mayberry, Julie (R)
Irvin, Missy (R) Creates a refundable income tax credit for qualifying early childhood education program directors, teachers, and instructional staff, and for eligible business childcare expenses.

Remarks: Tabled for additional study.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 01-26-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 151 ...H-Revenue and Taxation
01-25-23 H Amendment 1 adopted
02-14-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 151 ...H-Revenue and Taxation

HB 1160 Wardlaw, Jeff (R)
Dotson, Jim (R) Defines voluntary state employee benefits and policy products, prohibits Director of the Employee Benefits Division from supervising voluntary products, requires the State Employees Association to administer a cafeteria plan for voluntary products.

Remarks: Tabled for additional study.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 02-15-23 H Amendment(s) Filed
02-16-23 H Amendment 2 adopted
03-08-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 149 ...H-Insurance and Commerce

HB 1161 Hudson, Ashley (D)
Tucker, Clarke (D) Requires public school districts and open-enrollment public charter schools to excuse absences due to pregnancy- or parenting-related conditions.

Remarks: AAEA supports this bill.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 02-22-23 H House concurred in Senate amendment 1
02-22-23 H Enrolled in the House - Sent to Governor
02-24-23 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 128)

HB 1170 Joint Budget Appropriates funds to the Department of Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education for grants and aid for fiscal year 2023-2024.

Remarks: Table and watch.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 01-18-23 H Filed
01-18-23 H Introduced and referred to Joint Budget

HB 1173 Evans, Brian (R)
Hammer, Kim (R) Repeals the prohibition on licensing new psychological examiners.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 01-25-23 H Re-referred to committee H-Public Health, Welfare and Labor
02-02-23 H Amendment 1 adopted
02-07-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 130 ...H-Public Health, Welfare and Labor

HB 1183 Maddox, John (R)
Hammer, Kim (R) Amends definitions related to outsourcing under the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 02-08-23 S Emergency clause adopted
02-08-23 H Enrolled in the House - Sent to Governor
02-13-23 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 64)

HB 1184 Maddox, John (R)
Hammer, Kim (R) Provides that the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System may prorate the number of contracted days when determining classification regarding contributory and noncontributory members if the contract starts after the fiscal year.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 02-08-23 S Emergency clause adopted
02-08-23 H Enrolled in the House - Sent to Governor
02-13-23 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 52)

HB 1185 Mayberry, Julie (R)
Clark, Alan (R) Provides that a student who is eligible to transfer to a nonresident district shall not count against the 3% cap of the resident/nonresident district if the student attended preschool in the nonresident district at least one year before kindergarten.

Remarks: AAEA supports this bill as amended.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 02-22-23 H House concurred in Senate amendment 1
02-22-23 H Enrolled in the House - Sent to Governor
02-24-23 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 129)

HB 1186 Collins, Andrew (D)
Hammer, Kim (R) Amends the options regarding survivor annuity benefits under the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 02-27-23 S Emergency clause adopted
02-28-23 H Enrolled in the House - Sent to Governor
03-02-23 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 170)

HB 1187	Collins, Andrew (D) Hammer, Kim (R)	Amends the law regarding lump-sum death benefits under the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System. Remarks: Support. Track Code(s): GOV Bill History: 02-27-23 S Emergency clause adopted 02-28-23 H Enrolled in the House - Sent to Governor 03-02-23 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 171)
HB 1188	Collins, Andrew (D) Hammer, Kim (R)	Amends the law regarding the calculation of a member's final average salary under the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System. Remarks: Support. Track Code(s): GOV Bill History: 02-15-23 S Emergency clause adopted 02-16-23 H Enrolled in the House - Sent to Governor 02-21-23 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 109)
HB 1189	Clowney, Nicole (D) Hammer, Kim (R)	Creates a behavior analyst license to be administered by the Arkansas Psychology Board. Remarks: Support. Track Code(s): CURR Bill History: 02-27-23 H On floor for consideration 02-27-23 H Passed (Vote: Y: 56/N: 24) 02-27-23 S Received in the Senate - Referred to S-Public Health, Welfare and Labor
HB 1192	Eubanks, Jon (R) Flippo, Scott (R)	Repeals the Public School Educational Cooperative Act of 1981; amends requirements regarding a board of directors of an educational service cooperative. Remarks: Opposed in current form, co-op directors are meeting with the sponsor. Update: Bill pulled down for committee member input and possible amendments. Track Code(s): GOV Bill History: 02-14-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education 02-13-23 H Amendment 1 adopted 02-23-23 H Meeting set for 9:30 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education
HB 1199	Perry, Mark (D) Hammer, Kim (R)	Permits a refund of unused purchased service credit under the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System. Remarks: Support. Track Code(s): GOV Bill History: 02-08-23 S Emergency clause adopted 02-08-23 H Enrolled in the House - Sent to Governor 02-13-23 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 55)
HB 1200	Perry, Mark (D) Hammer, Kim (R)	Makes changes to an inactive member's eligibility for free military service credit and ability to purchase military, contributory, and federal service credit in the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System. Remarks: Support. Track Code(s): GOV Bill History: 02-09-23 S Emergency clause adopted 02-09-23 H Enrolled in the House - Sent to Governor 02-13-23 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 69)
HB 1201	Warren, Les (R) Hammer, Kim (R)	Enacts the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System's General Omnibus Act. Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 02-15-23 S Emergency clause adopted
02-16-23 H Enrolled in the House - Sent to Governor
02-21-23 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 107)

HB 1202 Warren, Les (R)
 Hammer, Kim (R) Amends the multiplier rate for contributory service used to calculate a life annuity under the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 02-08-23 S Emergency clause adopted
02-08-23 H Enrolled in the House - Sent to Governor
02-13-23 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 63)

HB 1204 Wooten, Jim (R) Requires private schools to administer an annual statewide student assessment and to admit each student that applies and intends to use state funds to cover the costs of attending private school.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 02-16-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education
02-15-23 H Moved to deferred list H-Education
03-09-23 H Amendment(s) Filed

HB 1205 Wooten, Jim (R) Requires a private school that accepts any state funding to provide transportation to enrolled students living within 35 miles of the school.

Remarks: Table and discuss concerns with sponsor. Update: Bill has been amended to address AAEE concerns.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 02-14-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education
02-13-23 H Amendment 1 adopted
02-16-23 H Meeting set for 9:30 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education

HB 1206 Carr, Joey (R)
 Wallace, Dave (R) Provides that the first 2 annual statewide student assessments administered after a student's enrollment shall not be included in the school rating system for students previously attending school out-of-state or at an unaccredited setting.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 01-24-23 H Filed
01-24-23 H Introduced and referred to H-Education
02-21-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education

HB 1238 Cozart, Bruce (R)
 Hammer, Kim (R) Adjusts the amounts for enhanced transportation funding the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education is required to provide to school districts annually.

Remarks: No position. AAEE supports enhanced transportation funding but have concerns on the current formula that leads to winners and losers each year in regards to eligibility and funding amounts.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 03-06-23 S Passed (Vote: Y: 34/N: 0)
03-06-23 S Emergency clause adopted
03-07-23 H Enrolled in the House - Sent to Governor

HB 1239 Underwood, Kendon (R)
 Dotson, Jim (R) Repeals the Arkansas corporate franchise tax and annual franchise tax reporting requirements.

Remarks: No Position.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 01-24-23 H Filed
01-24-23 H Introduced and referred to H-Revenue and Taxation
01-26-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 151 ...H-Revenue and Taxation

HB 1242 Wardlaw, Jeff (R) Allows retired public school employees to obtain pharmacy benefits if they are members of the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program but do not participate in the Medicare Advantage program offered by the EBD.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 02-16-23 H Passed (Vote: Y: 95/N: 0)
02-16-23 S Received in the Senate - Referred to S-Insurance and Commerce
02-21-23 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 171 ...S-Insurance and Commerce

HB 1247 Vaught, DeAnn (R) To amend the law concerning benefits paid to survivors and the refund of member contributions after the death of certain members of the various state retirement systems and Arkansas public employee retirement plans.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 03-06-23 S On floor for consideration
03-06-23 S Passed (Vote: Y: 34/N: 0)
03-07-23 H Enrolled in the House - Sent to Governor

HB 1253 McAlindon, Mindy (R)
Bryant, Joshua (R) Outlines how a fiduciary shall discharge his or her duties with respect to a pension benefit plan, prohibits consideration of nonpecuniary factors.

Remarks: Watch. Seek information on this bill's impact, if any, on ATRS.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 01-25-23 H Filed
01-25-23 H Introduced and referred to Joint Retirement

HB 1254 Mayberry, Julie (R)
Hammer, Kim (R) Prohibits the Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation from lowering the funding factors regarding public school project cost guidelines.

Remarks: AAEA supports this bill but recommends additional funding for the Facilities Partnership Program due to rising constructional costs and additional mandates.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 03-01-23 S Committee Motion for Do Pass Failed (Vote: Y: 4/N: 3)
03-08-23 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 207 ...S-Education
03-08-23 S Committee motion for D.P. as amended Failed (Vote: Y: 3/N: 4)

HB 1256 Mayberry, Julie (R)
Stone, Matt (R) Makes changes regarding the termination separation period for non-teacher school employees under the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System and the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System.

Remarks: AAEA supports this bill.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 01-25-23 H Filed
01-25-23 H Introduced and referred to Joint Retirement

HB 1268 McCullough, Tippi (D)
Leding, Greg (D) Appropriates \$350 million to the Department of Education to pay salary raises for all teachers, appropriates \$30 million to the Department of Education for educator compensation reform grants and aid.

Remarks: Table and watch.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 01-26-23 H Filed
01-26-23 H Introduced and referred to Joint Budget

HB 1306	Eubanks, Jon (R) Davis, Breanne (R)	Replaces the Treasurer of State with a person that has a background in banking appointed by the Attorney General on three retirement system boards. Remarks: AAEA supports this bill. ATRS is not opposed to this bill. Track Code(s): GOV Bill History: 02-17-23 H Committee hearing set for 9:00 a.m. - MAC Room A ...Joint Retirement 02-20-23 H Amendment(s) Filed 02-21-23 H Amendment 2 adopted
HB 1307	Wardlaw, Jeff (R) Hill, Ricky (R)	Requires the State Treasurer to provide each state governmental entity a list of financial services providers that discriminate against energy companies or firearms entities based on environmental, social justice, and other governance-related factors. Remarks: Based on feedback from ATRS, AAEA takes no position on this bill. Track Code(s): GOV Bill History: 03-09-23 S Placed on the Senate calendar 03-09-23 S Amendment 3 adopted 03-13-23 S Placed on the Senate calendar
HB 1315	Ennett, Denise (D) Chesterfield, Linda (D)	Requires public and private schools to have at least two employees who have met the training requirements to administer or assist with seizure medication and recognize the signs and symptoms of seizures. Remarks: AAEA supports this amended bill. Track Code(s): GOV Bill History: 03-08-23 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 207 ...S-Education 03-08-23 S Reported from committee - Do pass S-Education 03-13-23 S Placed on the Senate calendar
HB 1323	Vaught, DeAnn (R)	Requires a public school, open enrollment charter school, private school, or childcare facility to implement a mental health screening for participating students using an evidence-based screening program. Remarks: Tabled for additional study. Track Code(s): CURR Bill History: 02-02-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 130 ...H-Public Health, Welfare and Labor 02-21-23 H Motion to withdraw from committee carried H-Public Health, Welfare and Labor 02-21-23 H Withdrawn from further consideration
HB 1329	Richardson, Scott (R) English, Jane (R)	Requires the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to include a means for a public school student to substitute comparable career and technical education coursework for coursework required for graduation. Remarks: Support. Track Code(s): CURR Bill History: 03-06-23 S On floor for consideration 03-06-23 S Passed (Vote: Y: 34/N: 0) 03-07-23 H Enrolled in the House - Sent to Governor
HB 1333	Lundstrum, Robin (R) English, Jane (R)	Expands eligibility for the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program from 11th-12th grade to 9th-12th grade. Remarks: Support. Track Code(s): CURR Bill History: 01-31-23 H Filed 01-31-23 H Introduced and referred to H-Education 02-02-23 H Committee hearing set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education

HB 1336 Cozart, Bruce (R)
Hammer, Kim (R) Allows the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to create an agricultural education pilot program in public elementary schools after required consultation with industry stakeholders.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 03-06-23 S On floor for consideration
03-06-23 S Passed (Vote: Y: 34/N: 0)
03-07-23 H Enrolled in the House - Sent to Governor

HB 1337 Mayberry, Julie (R)
Hammer, Kim (R) Amends the definition of academic facility regarding a building, space, or related area used as a safe room for students.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 02-20-23 H Passed (Vote: Y: 53/N: 15)
02-20-23 S Received in the Senate - Referred to S-Education
03-08-23 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 207 ...S-Education

HB 1343 Scott, Jamie (D)
Chesterfield, Linda (D) Allows a teacher preparation program to include information in its curriculum about evidence-based, trauma-informed classroom instruction and recognition of behavioral reactions to trauma that may interfere with academic functioning.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 02-21-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education
02-20-23 H Amendment 2 adopted
03-14-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education

HB 1345 Tosh, Dwight (R)
Wallace, Dave (R) Increases the maximum income tax deduction for teacher expenses on classroom supplies from \$750 to \$1,500.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 02-02-23 H Filed
02-02-23 H Introduced and referred to H-Revenue and Taxation

HB 1350 Fite, Charlene (R)
Hammer, Kim (R) Amends the procedure for electing members of the board of directors in school districts with a 10% or greater minority population and a population of 8,000 or more.

Remarks: Support

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 02-14-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education
02-13-23 H Amendment 1 adopted
02-13-23 H Moved to deferred list H-Education

HB 1369 Meeks, Stephen (R)
English, Jane (R) Requires a public entity to create a technology resources policy defining the authorized use of technology resources for the public entity, develop a cyber security policy for all tech resources, and develop a training program for public employees.

Remarks: AAEA opposes this bill in its original form. The bill is redundant and unnecessary. There are policies already in place that address the requirement of this bill. Also, the bill requires additional staff training without removing any of the current PD requirements.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 02-27-23 H Amendment 1 adopted
03-09-23 H Amendment(s) Filed
03-13-23 H Meeting set for 12:00 p.m. - Room 151 hnology ...H-Communications and Information Technology

HB 1370 Fite, Lanny (R)
Dismang, Jonathan (R) Changes the method used to calculate the rate that electric utilities pay to net-metering customers who generate excess solar power. Makes various changes to the utilities' authority in rate structure determination, monthly grid charges, etc.

Companions: SB 295 Dismang, Jonathan (Same As)
3- 9-23 S Enrolled in the Senate - Sent to Governor

Remarks: AAEA opposes this bill in its original form. It could cause fiscal harm to school districts with solar arrays or in the process of building them.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 03-07-23 H Passed over on calendar
03-08-23 H Placed on the House calendar
03-08-23 H Passed over on calendar

HB 1393 Pearce, Shad (R)
Johnson, Blake (R) Recognizes the first full week of classes in May in Arkansas public schools as "Mental Health Awareness Week".

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 03-08-23 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 207 ...S-Education
03-08-23 S Reported from committee - Do pass S-Education
03-13-23 S Placed on the Senate calendar

HB 1399 Cavanaugh, Frances (R)
Flippo, Scott (R) Requires various election-related public notices to be published on a website rather than in a newspaper, amends certain publication requirements for counties and municipalities.

Remarks: AAEA supports this bill.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 03-01-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - MAC Room B ...H-City, County and Local Affairs
03-01-23 H Amendment(s) Filed
03-02-23 H Amendment 2 adopted

HB 1410 Burkes, Rebecca (R)
Penzo, Clint (R) Repeals the requirement that an employer of a child under 16 years of age must procure an employment certificate and make is accessible to the Division of Labor and the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education or local school officials.

Remarks: AAEA takes No Position on this legislation.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 03-02-23 S Passed (Vote: Y: 24/N: 9)
03-02-23 H Enrolled in the House - Sent to Governor
03-06-23 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 195)

HB 1428 Cooper, Cameron (R)
McKee, Matt (R) Requires a public school serving as a test site for career readiness assessment tests to ensure access for students regardless of school enrollment status and to make accommodations for students with disabilities.

Remarks: Tabled for additional study.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 02-14-23 H Filed
02-14-23 H Introduced and referred to H-Education
03-02-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education

HB 1444 Ray, David (R)
Johnson, Blake (R) Prohibits political subdivisions, including schools and institutions of higher education, from entering any consent decree without first providing notice to the Attorney General, who may disapprove of the consent decree and thereby prohibit it.

Remarks: AAEA is opposed to this bill would require school districts to have all settlement agreements (employment disputes, EEOC charges, special education complaints) reviewed and approved by the AG, with 30 days for the AG to approve. Settlement agreements are already approved by the local school board. This is an unnecessary requirement and needless delay, as would require school districts to wait up to 30 days before resolving issues at the local level.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 02-28-23 H Amendment 1 adopted
03-08-23 H Amendment(s) Filed
03-09-23 H Amendment 2 adopted

HB 1447 Mayberry, Julie (R)
 Hammer, Kim (R) Requires each school district board of directors to pay school nurses based on at least the minimum salary schedule provided by the Teacher Compensation Program of 2003, § 6-17-2401 et seq.

Remarks: AAEA supports this bill, with additional funding provided to meet this mandate.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 03-08-23 H Amendment(s) Filed
03-09-23 H Amendment 1 adopted
03-14-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education

HB 1462 Scott, Jamie (D)
 Irvin, Missy (R) Allows an unaccompanied homeless youth to become certified if certain requirements are met, makes changes to the fees charged to a foster care child or an unaccompanied homeless youth for certain documents and education programs.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 03-09-23 H On floor for consideration
03-09-23 H Passed (Vote: Y: 96/N: 0)
03-09-23 S Received in the Senate - Referred to S-Public Health, Welfare and Labor

HB 1463 Johnson, Lee (R) Removes the test that is required for first time teacher or school administrator licensure applicants; amends licensing provisions for Driver's Education Licensure.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 03-07-23 H On floor for consideration
03-07-23 H Passed (Vote: Y: 95/N: 0)
03-07-23 S Received in the Senate - Referred to S-Education

HB 1468 Long, Wayne (R)
 Johnson, Mark (R) Provides that a faculty member, teacher, or other employee of a school is not required to use a student's or coworker's preferred pronoun if it is not consistent with the student's or coworker's biological sex.

Remarks: No Position.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 03-09-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education
03-09-23 H Reported from committee - Do pass H-Education
03-13-23 H Placed on the House calendar

HB 1471 Haak, Delia (R)
 Stone, Matt (R) Repeals the reporting requirement that public school district boards of directors review and approve certain salary increases.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 03-08-23 H On floor for consideration
03-08-23 H Passed (Vote: Y: 95/N: 0)
03-08-23 S Received in the Senate - Referred to S-Education

HB 1489 Garner, Denise (D)
 Dotson, Jim (R) Amends the requirements for community service to qualify for academic credit, removes requirement that the State Board of Education must approve the community service programs/activities.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 02-22-23 H Filed
02-22-23 H Introduced and referred to H-Education
03-14-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education

HB 1495 Gramlich, Zachary (R)
 Boyd, Justin (R) Requires a school district to file the rate of tax for the school district with the county clerk no later than the date of the draw for ballot positions under § 7-7-305(b)(1).

Remarks: No Position.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 03-06-23 H Amendment(s) Filed
03-07-23 H Amendment 1 adopted
03-14-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education

HB 1496 Hawk, RJ (R)
 Crowell, Steve (R) Expands what constitutes an abuse of an athletic contest official offense, provides that intentionally causing physical injury to an athletic contest official is a Class D felony.

Remarks: AAEA supports this bill that is endorsed by AAA.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 02-23-23 H Filed
02-23-23 H Introduced and referred to H-Judiciary
03-14-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 149 ...H-Judiciary

HB 1504 McElroy, Mark (R) Prohibits certain school districts from being administratively consolidated if the school district is currently classified as in need of Level 5 — Intensive support and an enrolled student would have to ride a bus for more than 40 miles to attend.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 02-27-23 H Filed
02-27-23 H Introduced and referred to H-Education
03-14-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education

HB 1510 Ray, David (R)
 Payton, John (R) Amends the allowable dates for special elections on measures or questions referred to the voters by governmental entities, amends the conditions under which an emergency special election can be held.

Remarks: AAEA opposes this bill. The bill as written severely limits the school board's ability to take advantage of the bond market that could result in a more favorable rate (i.e. cost savings) for school districts and taxpayers.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 03-06-23 S Received in the Senate - Referred to S-State Agencies
03-09-23 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - OSC ...S-State Agencies
03-09-23 S Reported from committee - Do pass S-State Agencies

HB 1511 Richardson, Scott (R)
 Dotson, Jim (R) Requires each school bus acquired by a school to have an electronic child safety alarm system installed beginning January 1, 2024 and every school bus owned/operated by a school to have an alarm system installed by January 1, 2029.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 03-09-23 H On floor for consideration
03-09-23 H Passed (Vote: Y: 95/N: 0)
03-09-23 S Received in the Senate - Referred to S-Education

HB 1514 Shephard, Tara (D) Requires the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to collaborate with the Department of Health to ensure public high schools/state-supported higher education institutions have an overdose rescue kit on each campus.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 02-28-23 H Filed
02-28-23 H Introduced and referred to H-Education
03-02-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education

HB 1516 Lundstrum, Robin (R)
English, Jane (R) Allows a public school district to enter into a memo of understanding with a business to provide a subject-matter expert for targeted classroom supplemental training or instruction, creates income tax credit for participating businesses.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 02-28-23 H Filed
02-28-23 H Introduced and referred to H-Education
03-14-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education

HB 1524 Berry, Mark (R)
Dotson, Jim (R) Removes the requirement for the State of Arkansas or any state agency to post notice of its intent to receive bids for contracts for public improvements projects under \$50,000.

Remarks: No Position.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 03-09-23 H Passed (Vote: Y: 95/N: 0)
03-09-23 S Received in the Senate - Referred to S-State Agencies
03-14-23 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - OSC ...S-State Agencies

HB 1526 Bentley, Mary (R)
Davis, Breanne (R) Requires each health and safety course offered by a public school district or open-enrollment public charter school to include information regarding breastfeeding.

Remarks: AAEA is opposed to this bill in its current form. Seeking clarification from the sponsor on how this bill relates to Act 1074 of 2021.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 03-01-23 H Filed
03-01-23 H Introduced and referred to H-Education
03-14-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education

HB 1527 Bentley, Mary (R)
Bryant, Joshua (R) Clarifies that a public school district is required to excuse absences for a student whose reason for being absent is to participate in 4-H approved activities or programs.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 03-01-23 H Filed
03-01-23 H Introduced and referred to H-Education
03-14-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education

HB 1531 Hodges, Grant (R)
Dotson, Jim (R) Allows voters to place on the ballot of any annual school election the issue to determine whether to elect the school district board of directors from single member zones, at large, or a combination of both, expands board of director terms to 4 years.

Remarks: Seeking clarification on the components of the bill.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 03-09-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education
03-09-23 H Reported from committee - Do pass H-Education
03-13-23 H Placed on the House calendar

HB 1533 Cozart, Bruce (R)
English, Jane (R) Provides that a student who passes a GED test or who transfers from a public school to a home school, private school, or parochial school in 9th-12th grade does not count as a drop out for the purpose of school performance reports.

Remarks: Support

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 03-08-23 H On floor for consideration
03-08-23 H Passed (Vote: Y: 94/N: 0)

HB 1534	Cozart, Bruce (R) English, Jane (R)	Repeals the election procedures that apply to school district board members for school districts with a 10% or greater minority population.
Remarks: Support.		
Track Code(s): GOV		
Bill History: 03-08-23 H On floor for consideration 03-08-23 H Passed (Vote: Y: 77/N: 14) 03-08-23 S Received in the Senate - Referred to S-Education		
HB 1535	Cozart, Bruce (R) English, Jane (R)	Requires a report or presentation regarding student academic data or performance to be provided at each regular monthly school board meeting.
Remarks: Support.		
Track Code(s): GOV		
Bill History: 03-08-23 H On floor for consideration 03-08-23 H Passed (Vote: Y: 94/N: 1) 03-08-23 S Received in the Senate - Referred to S-Education		
HB 1538	Vaught, DeAnn (R)	Amends professional development requirements for public and private school teachers.
Remarks: Tabled for additional information.		
Track Code(s): CURR		
Bill History: 03-09-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education 03-08-23 H Amendment 1 adopted 03-14-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education		
HB 1539	Vaught, DeAnn (R)	Repeals the requirement for public school districts and open-enrollment public charter schools to offer expelled students alternative courses equal to the credits the student may have received if enrolled.
Remarks: Support.		
Track Code(s): CURR		
Bill History: 03-02-23 H Filed 03-02-23 H Introduced and referred to H-Education 03-14-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education		
HB 1540	Vaught, DeAnn (R)	Allows a student who leaves a public school district/open-enrollment public charter school for at least one year to reenter at the grade level appropriate to the student's ability based on a grade-level placement test.
Remarks: Support.		
Track Code(s): CURR		
Bill History: 03-02-23 H Filed 03-02-23 H Introduced and referred to H-Education 03-14-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education		
HB 1555	Meeks, Stephen (R) English, Jane (R)	Exempts from FOIA meetings of the Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology involving cyberattacks on public entities and exempts related internal policies and guidelines established to address those incidents.
Remarks: Support.		
Track Code(s): GOV		
Bill History: 03-06-23 H Filed 03-06-23 H Introduced and referred to H-Communications and Information Technology 03-13-23 H Meeting set for 12:00 p.m. - Room 151 hnology ...H-Communications and Information Technology		

HB 1559 McAlindon, Mindy (R) Prohibits a school or institution of higher learning from requiring an employee to complete or participate in implicit bias training or from taking adverse action against an employee who refuses to complete or participate in such training.

Remarks: Tabled for additional information.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 03-06-23 H Filed
03-06-23 H Introduced and referred to H-Education
03-14-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education

HB 1562 Schulz, Bart (R)
Gillmore, Ben (R) Expands the list of people to which a healthcare professional acting in good faith can prescribe, dispense, and supply an opioid antagonist.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 03-09-23 H Meeting set for 9:30 a.m. - Room 130 ...H-Public Health, Welfare and Labor
03-09-23 H Reported from committee - Do pass H-Public Health, Welfare and Labor
03-13-23 H Placed on the House calendar

HB 1567 Womack, Richard (R)
Crowell, Steve (R) Requires a school bus that is purchased new or leased that is to be used in Arkansas on or after January 1, 2024 to be equipped with alternating red warning lights on the front and back of the bus.

Remarks: Tabled for additional information.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 03-07-23 H Filed
03-07-23 H Introduced and referred to H-Public Transportation
03-14-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - MAC Room B ...H-Public Transportation

HB 1576 Scott, Jamie (D)
Davis, Breanne (R) Prohibits an employer, employment agency, labor organization, public school, or state-supported institution of higher learning from discrimination against an individual because of a natural, protective, or cultural hairstyle.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 03-08-23 H Filed
03-08-23 H Introduced and referred to H-Judiciary
03-14-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 149 ...H-Judiciary

HB 1581 Warren, Les (R)
Hickey, Jimmy (R) Makes changes concerning construction contracts that contain a hold harmless clause to ensure the standards of care of engineers and architects. Voids those contracts in which a party is required to name the other party as an additional insured.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 03-08-23 H Filed
03-08-23 H Introduced and referred to H-Public Health, Welfare and Labor
03-14-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 130 ...H-Public Health, Welfare and Labor

HB 1587 Wooten, Jim (R) Requires each home school student who is 7 years of age through 17 years of age on October 1 of each school year to be tested annually using a nationally recognized norm-referenced assessment approved by the State Board of Education.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 03-09-23 H Filed
03-09-23 H Introduced and referred to H-Education
03-14-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education

HB 1590 Walker, Steven (R)
Dotson, Jim (R) Allows public school districts that implement an alternative school calendar to use alternative methods of instruction granted under § 6-10-127.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 03-09-23 H Filed
03-09-23 H Introduced and referred to H-Education

HJR1002 Meeks, Stephen (R) Proposes a constitutional amendment allowing the General Assembly to reduce tax rates or create exemptions for personal property and requiring the General Assembly to eliminate personal property taxes by January 1, 2050.

Remarks: Oppose, no replacement mechanism for lost revenue.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 01-30-23 H Filed
01-30-23 H Introduced and referred to H-State Agencies

HJR1006 Lundstrum, Robin (R)
English, Jane (R) Proposes a Constitutional amendment to expand the uses of lottery proceeds to include scholarships and grants to a public or private vocational-technical school or a public or private technical institute.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 02-07-23 H Filed
02-07-23 H Introduced and referred to H-State Agencies

HR 1039 Duke, Hope (R) Proclaims March as National Speech and Debate Month at the Capitol.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 03-06-23 H Introduced and referred to H-Aging, Children, Legislative & Military
03-08-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 130 itary ...H-Aging, Children, Legislative & Military
03-08-23 H Reported from committee - Do pass H-Aging, Children, Legislative & Military

SB 3 English, Jane (R) Expands eligibility for tuition assistance for veterans to include the spouse and child of any disabled veteran; includes stepchildren of veterans as a priority for the AR Academic Challenge Scholarship.

Remarks: Withdrawn by sponsor.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 01-09-23 S Introduced and referred to S-Education
01-17-23 S Motion to withdraw from committee carried S-Education
01-17-23 S Withdrawn from further consideration

SB 36 Joint Budget Appropriates funds to the Department of Education - Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation for 2023-2024 operations.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 01-06-23 S Filed
01-09-23 S Introduced and referred to Joint Budget

SB 41 Hill, Ricky (R)
Wardlaw, Jeff (R) Requires state agencies to divest from products of financial services providers that discriminate against energy, fossil fuel, firearms/ammunition industry businesses based on environmental, social justice, or governance scores or metrics.

Remarks: Watch. Seek information on this bill's impact, if any, on ATRS.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 01-09-23 S Filed
01-09-23 S Introduced and referred to S-Insurance and Commerce

SB 59 Chesterfield, Linda (D)
Richardson, Jay (D) Amends the authorization for parents and school employees to use physical force against a minor or incompetent person under their supervision, limiting the justification to circumstances in which they sense imminent physical harm.

Remarks: AAEA supports this bill that expands the same level of protection to all school employees.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 02-23-23 S Senate concurred in House amendment 1
02-23-23 S Enrolled in the Senate - Sent to Governor
02-27-23 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 165)

SB 62 Hill, Ricky (R)
Wardlaw, Jeff (R) Prohibits public entities from engaging in a boycott of energy, fossil fuel, firearms, and ammunition industries, or from contracting with a company without written certification that the company is not engaged in such boycotts.

Remarks: AAEA takes no position on this bill.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 03-09-23 S Passed (Vote: Y: 26/N: 6)
03-09-23 H Received in the House - Referred to H-State Agencies
03-13-23 H Meeting set for 15 Minutes Upon Adjournment - Room 151 ...H-State Agencies

SB 68 Dotson, Jim (R)
Vaught, DeAnn (R) Designates the last full week of classes in January in Arkansas public schools as Holocaust Education Week.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 02-06-23 H Passed (Vote: Y: 97/N: 0)
02-07-23 S Enrolled in the Senate - Sent to Governor
02-09-23 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 48)

SB 71 Sullivan, Dan (R)
Gonzales, Justin (R) Repeals various programs aimed at the recruitment and retention of minority candidates in public schools, state supported institutions of higher education, and state agencies, boards, and commissions.

Remarks: AAEA takes no position on this bill.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 03-09-23 S Passed (Vote: Y: 18/N: 12)
03-09-23 H Received in the House - Referred to H-State Agencies
03-13-23 H Meeting set for 15 Minutes Upon Adjournment - Room 151 ...H-State Agencies

SB 76 Joint Budget Appropriates funds to the Department of Education for 2023-2024 operations.

Remarks: Table and watch.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 01-19-23 S Filed
01-19-23 S Introduced and referred to Joint Budget

SB 81 Sullivan, Dan (R)
Gonzales, Justin (R) Amends the law concerning obscene material, creates the offense of furnishing harmful items to minors.

Remarks: AAEA certainly opposed obscene material in schools but opposes this bill in its current form due to additional legal exposure on school staff. Update: After amendments, AAEA takes no position on this bill.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 03-09-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 149 ...H-Judiciary
03-09-23 H Reported from committee - Do pass as amended 1 ...H-Judiciary
03-09-23 H Amendment(s) Filed

SB 88 Johnson, Mark (R)
Gonzales, Justin (R) Defines healthcare provider in the context of definitions related to student athlete concussion education.

Remarks: AAEA takes no position on this bill.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 01-23-23 S Filed
01-23-23 S Introduced and referred to S-Public Health, Welfare and Labor
02-22-23 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 272 ...S-Public Health, Welfare and Labor

SB 91 Hammer, Kim (R)
Fite, Charlene (R) Establishes an audiology and speech pathology interstate compact in Arkansas, effective when 10th state enacts compact. Establishes a Commission and provides procedures for compliance.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 03-09-23 H Meeting set for 9:30 a.m. - Room 130 ...H-Public Health, Welfare and Labor
03-09-23 H Reported from committee - Do pass H-Public Health, Welfare and Labor
03-13-23 H Placed on the House calendar

SB 115 Hammer, Kim (R)
Warren, Les (R) Makes changes regarding eligibility for survivor annuity benefits in the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 02-08-23 H Emergency clause adopted
02-08-23 S Enrolled in the Senate - Sent to Governor
02-13-23 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 77)

SB 116 Hammer, Kim (R)
Warren, Les (R) Allows a member of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System to purchase permissive service credit for one or more gap years if certain conditions are met.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 02-15-23 H Emergency clause adopted
02-16-23 S Enrolled in the Senate - Sent to Governor
02-21-23 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 125)

SB 117 Hammer, Kim (R)
Warren, Les (R) Reduces the termination separation period under the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System from six months to three months.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 02-27-23 H Passed (Vote: Y: 96/N: 1)
02-27-23 S Enrolled in the Senate - Sent to Governor
03-02-23 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 183)

SB 149 Leding, Greg (D)
McCullough, Tippi (D) Increases per-student foundation funding amounts for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years.

Remarks: Table and watch.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 02-08-23 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 207 ...S-Education
02-07-23 S Meeting cancelled for 02/08/23 ...S-Education
03-08-23 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 207 ...S-Education

SB 165 Payton, John (R)
Warren, Les (R) Amends the law concerning age and years of service requirements under the various state retirement systems and Arkansas public employee retirement plans.(Shell Bill)

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 01-26-23 S Filed
01-26-23 S Introduced and referred to Joint Retirement

SB 170 Payton, John (R)
Warren, Les (R) Amends the law concerning benefits under the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System.
(Shell Bill)

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 01-26-23 S Filed
01-26-23 S Introduced and referred to Joint Retirement

SB 171 Payton, John (R)
Warren, Les (R) Amends the law concerning credited service under the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System.(Shell Bill)

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 01-26-23 S Filed
01-26-23 S Introduced and referred to Joint Retirement

SB 172 Dotson, Jim (R) Provides that supervision of recess is a noninstructional teacher duty rather than a responsibility that is initiated for instructional purposes.

Remarks: AAEE takes no position on this bill at this time. Working with the sponsor, schools are providing the required planning time for teachers.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 01-26-23 S Introduced and referred to S-Education
02-08-23 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 207 ...S-Education
02-07-23 S Meeting cancelled for 02/08/23 ...S-Education

SB 175 Payton, John (R)
Warren, Les (R) Amends the law concerning the contributions of members under the various state retirement systems and Arkansas public employee retirement plans.(Shell Bill)

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 01-26-23 S Filed
01-26-23 S Introduced and referred to Joint Retirement

SB 182 Sullivan, Dan (R) Amends the exemption from the law that requires a public official to allow the filming or recording of certain events to provide that a publicly funded school or institution may only prohibit video recording.

Remarks: AAEE opposes this bill due to concerns of student privacy and potential violations of FERPA.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 01-30-23 S Filed
01-30-23 S Introduced and referred to S-Judiciary
03-13-23 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 171 ...S-Judiciary

SB 190 Murdock, Reginald (D) Requires the Department of Education to use the same criteria as is used for charter school waivers in order to grant a waiver submitted by a public school. Requires the State Board of Education to show cause in order to revoke a waiver.

Remarks: Support

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 03-02-23 S Passed (Vote: Y: 32/N: 1)
03-02-23 H Received in the House - Referred to H-Education
03-14-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education

SB 198 Dismang, Jonathan (R)
Eaves, Les (R) Requires counties to reappraise all market value real estate every four years instead of every three years.

Remarks: No Position.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 02-22-23 H Passed (Vote: Y: 96/N: 1)
02-23-23 S Enrolled in the Senate - Sent to Governor
02-24-23 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 139)

SB 202	English, Jane (R)	Increases the maximum monetary scholarship award under the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program from \$800 to \$1500.
	Remarks:	Support.
	Track Code(s):	CURR
	Bill History:	02-06-23 S Filed 02-06-23 S Introduced and referred to S-Education
SB 206	Penzo, Clint (R) Beaty, Howard (R)	Changes school board terms of office to four-year terms and limits members from serving more than sixteen consecutive years in office. Changes school board elections to partisan elections held on the general election date.
	Remarks:	AAEA opposes this bill that would require partisan board elections. This model would not be an effective or efficient way to develop stable board leadership.
	Track Code(s):	GOV
	Bill History:	02-15-23 S Amendment(s) Filed 02-16-23 S Amendment 1 adopted 03-08-23 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 207 ...S-Education
SB 207	Johnson, Blake (R) Richmond, Marcus (R)	Makes various changes to the corporate franchise tax regarding filing fees, reporting, failure to pay/comply, revocation, reinstatement, and the definition of a corporation.
	Remarks:	Table for additional information.
	Track Code(s):	FIN
	Bill History:	02-23-23 S Passed (Vote: Y: 31/N: 2) 02-23-23 H Received in the House - Referred to H-Revenue and Taxation 03-14-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 151 ...H-Revenue and Taxation
SB 225	Joint Budget	Reappropriates funds from the Development and Enhancement Fund to the Department of Education - Division of Elementary and Secondary Education for various capital improvement costs.
	Remarks:	Support.
	Track Code(s):	FIN
	Bill History:	02-28-23 H Emergency clause adopted 03-01-23 S Enrolled in the Senate - Sent to Governor 03-06-23 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 223)
SB 230	King, Bryan (R)	Requires employers to provide 8 hours of paid leave to each employee registered to vote for early voting prior to a primary election, prohibits employers from penalizing employees for using this paid leave.
	Remarks:	AAEA certainly encourages employees and all citizens to exercise their right to vote. However, AAEA opposes this bill. Polls are open before and after school hours so it should not be a problem for employees to vote.
	Track Code(s):	FIN
	Bill History:	02-08-23 S Introduced and referred to S-State Agencies 02-14-23 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - OSC ...S-State Agencies 02-13-23 S Moved to deferred list S-State Agencies
SB 232	Clark, Alan (R) Lundstrum, Robin (R)	Allows a child whose parent/guardian relocates him or her to a nonresident school district to complete all remaining school years at the school district in which he or she is enrolled at the time of the relocation, regardless of residency status.
	Remarks:	Tabled for additional information and to reach out to AAA. Update: AAEA takes no position on this bill.
	Track Code(s):	GOV
	Bill History:	02-27-23 H Passed (Vote: Y: 95/N: 0) 02-27-23 S Enrolled in the Senate - Sent to Governor 03-02-23 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 189)

SB 248	English, Jane (R) Evans, Brian (R)	Establishes the Arkansas Challenge Plus Scholarship Program, describes eligibility and funding. Remarks: Support Track Code(s): CURR Bill History: 02-10-23 S Filed 02-13-23 S Introduced and referred to S-Education 02-14-23 S Amendment 1 adopted
SB 262	Payton, John (R) Miller, Josh (R)	Repeals the requirement that a school district with attendance less than 350 be administratively consolidated by the state board if the district does not petition for voluntary consolidation or annexation. Remarks: Support. Track Code(s): GOV Bill History: 03-06-23 S Passed (Vote: Y: 35/N: 0) 03-06-23 H Received in the House - Referred to H-Education 03-14-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education
SB 276	Hammer, Kim (R) Painter, Stetson (R)	Provides that candidates for school board elections must file required materials during a one-week period ending at 12:00 noon 70 days before a school election held in November. Remarks: Support. Track Code(s): GOV Bill History: 03-08-23 H Passed (Vote: Y: 94/N: 0) 03-08-23 H Emergency clause adopted 03-08-23 S Enrolled in the Senate - Sent to Governor
SB 285	Tucker, Clarke (D)	Provides that a student who accompanies his or her parent when voting in a scheduled election shall not be counted as absent from school during that time. Remarks: Support. Track Code(s): CURR Bill History: 02-17-23 S Filed 02-20-23 S Introduced and referred to S-Education 03-08-23 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 207 ...S-Education
SB 294	Davis, Breanne (R) Brooks, Keith (R)	Creates the Arkansas LEARNS Act, creating personal accounts for students to use in attending eligible schools, setting a minimum teacher salary of \$50,000 and making various other changes to education law. Remarks: We cannot support this bill in its entirety, as presented. AAEA and its members have requested amendments during the process, and many were not initially considered, except due process. We will continue to work with the legislature to amend, clarify, or draft future legislation that addresses the concerns presented in the AAEA testimony. Regardless of the final policy, Arkansas administrators will focus on making implementation successful for students and staff. Testimony https://tinyurl.com/28dtn75a Track Code(s): CURR , FIN , GOV Bill History: 03-07-23 S On floor for consideration 03-07-23 S Senate concurred in House amendment 1 03-08-23 G Signed by the Governor (Act: 237)
SB 295	Dismang, Jonathan (R) Fite, Lanny (R)	Changes the method used to calculate the rate that electric utilities pay to net-metering customers who generate excess solar power. Makes various changes to the utilities' authority in rate structure determination, monthly grid charges, etc. Companions: HB 1370 Fite, Lanny (Same As) 3- 8-23 H Passed over on calendar Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 03-09-23 H Passed (Vote: Y: 73/N: 14)
03-09-23 H Emergency clause adopted
03-09-23 S Enrolled in the Senate - Sent to Governor

SB 303 Tucker, Clarke (D) Makes changes concerning weighted lottery admissions for open-enrollment public charter schools to increase the admission chances for school lunch students, English-language learners, disabled students, and academically distressed students.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 02-21-23 S Filed
02-21-23 S Introduced and referred to S-Education
03-08-23 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 207 ...S-Education

SB 304 Stone, Matt (R)
Gonzales, Justin (R) Requires all school superintendent employment contracts to include standards that are grounds for termination. Limits superintendent contract buyout agreement compensation amounts.

Remarks: Oppose.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 03-01-23 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 207 ...S-Education
03-01-23 S Reported from committee - Do pass S-Education
03-07-23 S Withdrawn from further consideration

SB 308 Dismang, Jonathan (R)
Vaught, DeAnn (R) Requires the Department of Education to use funds appropriated to the Public School Fund Account to provide free school meals to qualifying students not initially covered by federal funds, requires audit of the Education Child Nutrition Unit.

Remarks: Tabled for additional information and clarification.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 03-08-23 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 207 ...S-Education
03-08-23 S Amendment(s) Filed
03-09-23 S Amendment 1 adopted

SB 355 Caldwell, Ronald (R)
Holcomb, Mike (R) Requires the Fire Prevention Code to begin by January 1, 2025 to identify educational facilities that are required to have a storm shelter and to determine the occupant capacity of those shelters to be determined by total occupant load.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 03-09-23 S Passed (Vote: Y: 32/N: 0)
03-09-23 H Received in the House - Referred to H-Education
03-14-23 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 138 ...H-Education

SB 360 Gilmore, Ben (R)
Beaty, Howard (R) Expands the sales tax exemption for the purchase of a textbook, library book, or other instructional material to include purchases by a public library, an academic library, and the Arkansas State Library.

Remarks: Table, waiting on fiscal impact statement.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 03-06-23 S Filed
03-06-23 S Introduced and referred to S-Revenue and Taxation

SB 361 McKee, Matt (R)
Cooper, Cameron (R) Amends requirements regarding the participation of homeschooled students in interscholastic activities.

Remarks: AAEE opposes this bill that allows for much greater access to interscholastic participation for homeschool students than public, private or charter school students. Also, it removes the requirement for students to be enrolled in school one period. Students are not eligible for catastrophic insurance coverage unless they are enrolled.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 03-08-23 S Reported from committee - Do pass S-Education
03-09-23 S Placed on the Senate calendar
03-09-23 S Passed over on calendar

SB 364 Tucker, Clarke (D)
 Flowers, Vivian (D) Requires a public school district to be returned to full local control if the school district has been under the authority of the state board for 5 years and has democratically elected a board of directors during a special/annual school election.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 03-06-23 S Filed
03-06-23 S Introduced and referred to S-Education
03-08-23 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 207 ...S-Education

SB 367 Flowers, Stephanie (D) Requires a school district to make unused or underutilized public school facilities available at no cost to the municipality in which the school district's boundaries are located.

Remarks: AAEA opposes this bill that would require a school district to make unused or underutilized public school facilities available at no cost to the municipality in which the school district's boundaries are located. Districts should have the option to receive fair market value if they so choose.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 03-08-23 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - Room 207 ...S-Education
03-09-23 S Amendment(s) Filed
03-09-23 S Amendment 1 adopted

SB 369 Dotson, Jim (R) Requires the Division of Career and Technical Education to review new and existing career and technical pathways to determine which courses meet criteria for weighted credit and publish a list of approved pathways annually.

Remarks: AAEA supports this bill but also supports a more streamlined process to get course approval for weighted credit at the local level.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 03-09-23 S Placed on the Senate calendar
03-09-23 S Amendment 1 adopted
03-13-23 S Placed on the Senate calendar

SB 376 English, Jane (R)
 Meeks, Stephen (R) Requires the Data and Transparency Panel to develop a shared services data hub for statewide data sharing to drive innovation and facilitate efficiency across state agencies and to improve service delivery.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 03-09-23 S Meeting set for Upon Adjournment of Joint Budget - MAC Room Affairs
...S-Transportation, Technology & Leg. Affairs
03-09-23 S Reported from committee - Do pass S-Transportation, Technology & Leg. Affairs
03-13-23 S Placed on the Senate calendar

SB 378 Davis, Breanne (R)
 Barker, Sonia (R) Allows rather than requires a public school district to hire a computer science teacher at each high school in the district.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): FIN

Bill History: 03-07-23 S Filed
03-07-23 S Introduced and referred to S-Education

SB 380 Clark, Alan (R) Amends requirements regarding a custodian response to a public records request under the Freedom of Information Act, permits custodian response to be delivered electronically.

Remarks: AAEA opposes this bill that would criminalize not responding to FOIA requests in a timely manner. It also requires districts to identify and respond to all records that are

subject to exemptions which would be very labor intensive.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 03-07-23 S Filed
03-07-23 S Introduced and referred to S-State Agencies
03-14-23 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - OSC ...S-State Agencies

SB 381 Clark, Alan (R) Requires the members of the governing body of each city, county, and school board to attend an annual training session concerning Freedom of Information Act requirements.

Remarks: AAEA is opposed to this bill that would require 2 hours of FOIA training every year for school board members. This is excessive and redundant and would take from other required training for board members. It is burdensome on elected officials that are not paid and typically hold full time jobs.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 03-07-23 S Filed
03-07-23 S Introduced and referred to S-State Agencies
03-14-23 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - OSC ...S-State Agencies

SB 382 Clark, Alan (R) Amends certain open public meetings requirements under the Freedom of Information Act.

Remarks: AAEA opposes this bill that defines a "meeting" as the convening of two or more board members to discuss public business or deliberate toward a decision on any matter, other than a chance meeting. There would be no way to meet other requirements, namely a recording and public notice. This would be very impractical to implement.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 03-07-23 S Filed
03-07-23 S Introduced and referred to S-State Agencies
03-14-23 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m. - OSC ...S-State Agencies

SB 384 Wallace, Dave (R) Requires a public high school to provide one hour of instruction on adoption awareness to students enrolled in grades 9-12, requires the State Board of Education to develop necessary curricula, standards, and materials.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 03-08-23 S Filed
03-08-23 S Introduced and referred to S-Education

SB 387 English, Jane (R) Makes various changes concerning the education of military children regarding the definition of active duty, new student reception programs, and the membership/powers/duties of the Arkansas Council for Military Children.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 03-08-23 S Filed
03-08-23 S Introduced and referred to S-Education

SB 389 Penzo, Clint (R)
Beaty, Howard (R) Requires school district board members to be elected at the general election and to serve four year terms. Prohibits board members running for a term that would exceed sixteen consecutive years in office.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 03-08-23 S Filed
03-08-23 S Introduced and referred to S-Education

SB 391 King, Bryan (R) Provides that if a public school athletic team plays against and loses to a private school athletic team in a state championship game, the public school athletic team shall be considered the state champion, applies retroactively.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 03-09-23 S Filed
03-09-23 S Introduced and referred to S-Education

SB 400 Clark, Alan (R) Prohibits a public school student who transfers to another public school/nonresident school district from being denied participation in an extracurricular activity or disciplined based exclusively on his or her decision to transfer.

Track Code(s): GOV

Bill History: 03-09-23 S Filed
03-09-23 S Introduced and referred to S-Education

SR 23 Dotson, Jim (R) Proclaims March as National Speech and Debate Month at the Capitol.

Remarks: Support.

Track Code(s): CURR

Bill History: 03-06-23 S Filed
03-06-23 S Introduced and referred to calendar

- End of Report -