



**94th General Assembly
Legislative Session Bill Summary
May 10, 2023**

Good session overall for Ag. No big surprises. Governor & Republican Supermajority Met Goals.

Gov & Leg Priorities Enacted

LEARNS Act (education); Public Safety (criminal justice/prison); Tax Cuts (personal & corporate); RSA

Big Ag Bills Enacted

SB191 (Act 135): Plant Board Appointments

SB403 (Act 691): Ag Dept Reorganization of Boards & Commissions

SB506 (Act 712): Research and Promotion Boards Appointments and Administration

HB1706 (Act 824): To Transfer The Authority Related To Liquid Animal Waste Management Systems From The Department Of Energy And Environment To The Department Of Agriculture.

HB1707 (Act 530): To Amend The Arkansas Soil Nutrient Application And Poultry Litter Utilization Act; And To Provide That Nutrient Management Plans And Poultry Litter Management Plans Are Not Public Records.

SB383 (Act 636): To Amend The Law Concerning Ownership And Possession Of Real Property (ITAR Nations).

Small Ag Bills Enacted

HB1624 (Act 814): Chicot County Water Conservation & Development Tax Credits

HB1548 (Act 550): Drivers License Waiting Period between exams

HB1336 (Act 243): To Create An Agricultural Education Pilot Program In Public Elementary Schools.

SB327 (Act 878): An Act For The University Of Arkansas - Division Of Agriculture Capital Improvement Appropriation.

SB557 (Act 665): To Amend the Arkansas Environmental Quality Act of 1973; And To Amend The Membership Of The Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission.

Other Measures

SB259 (Act 278): Solar Net Metering Bill

SB478 (Act 881): To Provide Additional Funding For The Arkansas Port, Intermodal, And Waterway Development Grant Program Fund; And To Create A Waterways Investment Income Tax Credit.

HB1653 (Act 737): To Prohibit The Purchase Of Small Unmanned Aircrafts Manufactured Or Assembled By A Covered Foreign Entity.

SB508 (Act 713): To Amend The Used Tire Recycling And Accountability Act; To Amend The Used Tire Programs; And To Declare An Emergency.

Bills Not Enacted That We Supported

SB371: To Transfer The Arkansas Rural Services Commission And The Rural Services Division Of The Arkansas Economic Development Commission To The Department Of Agriculture; And To Declare An Emergency.

SB499 (interim study): Regarding Rice Promotion; To Amend The Assessments On Grown Rice; And To Declare

An Emergency.

HB1044: To Adopt Federal Law Concerning Income Tax Deductions For Depreciation And The Expensing Of Property.

HB1506: To Create A Sales And Use Tax Exemption For Parts Purchased To Repair Agricultural Equipment And Machinery And Timber Equipment And Machinery.

HB1680: To Create The Arkansas Private Lands Conservation Income Tax Credit Act.

Bills Not Enacted That We Opposed

HB1800: To Amend The Arkansas Plant Act Of 1917; To Require The State Plant Board To Consider Certain Data Related To Dicamba And To Set A Cutoff Date For The Use Of Dicamba Within A Specific Date Range.

SB529: To Amend The Arkansas Soil Nutrient Application And Poultry Litter Utilization Act; And To Require Certain Records Be Provided To The Arkansas Natural Resource Commission.

HB1611: To Amend Portions Of The Workers' Compensation Law That Resulted From Initiated Measure 1948, No. 4.; And To Allow Attorney's Fees To Be Awarded On Medical Benefits Or Services Awarded Under The Workers' Compensation Law.

HB1612: To Amend Portions Of The Law Regarding Certain Workers' Compensation Payments Under The Workers' Compensation Law That Resulted From Initiated Measure 1948, No. 4.



Full List of Legislation Monitored

House Bills:

[HB1003](#): To Create Income Tax Credits For Beginning Farmers And Owners Of Agricultural Assets.

[HB1032](#): (Act 315): To Increase The Amount Of The Homestead Property Tax Credit.

[HB1044](#): To Adopt Federal Law Concerning Income Tax Deductions For Depreciation And The Expensing Of Property.

[HB1045](#): (Act 485): To Enhance Economic Competitiveness By Phasing Out The Throwback Rule.

[HB1052](#): (Act 5): An Act For The Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board Appropriation

[HB1056](#): (Act 2): An Act For The Arkansas Corn And Grain Sorghum Promotion Board Appropriation

[HB1057](#): (Act 3): An Act For The Arkansas Rice Research And Promotion Board Appropriation

[HB1058](#): (Act 4): An Act For The Arkansas Wheat Promotion Board Appropriation

[HB1169](#): (Act 571): An Act For The Department Of Agriculture - Arkansas Natural Resources Commission Appropriation

[HB1229](#): (Act 432): An Act For The University Of Arkansas And The Division Of Agriculture - Arkansas Biosciences Institutes Appropriation For The 2023-2024 Fiscal Year.

[HB1234](#): To Amend The Used Tire Recycling And Accountability Act; To Commercialize The Used Tire Recycling And Accountability Program; To Create The Arkansas Commerce Tire Program Act; And To Declare An Emergency.

[HB1286](#): (Act 204): To Make Technical Corrections To Title 15 Of The Arkansas Code Concerning Natural Resources And Economic Development.

[HB1293](#): (Act 206): To Make Technical Corrections To Title 25 Of The Arkansas Code Concerning State Government; And To Repeal The Subchapter Concerning Rules Pertaining To Milk And Cattle Production.

[HB1336](#): (Act 243): To Create An Agricultural Education Pilot Program In Public Elementary Schools.

[HB1370](#): To Amend The Arkansas Renewable Energy Development Act Of 2001; To Prevent Cost-shifting And Ensure Fairness To All Ratepayers; To Create The Customer Protections For Net-metering Customers Act; And To Declare An Emergency.

[HB1403](#): (Act 158): An Act For The Department Of Agriculture - Arkansas Natural Resources Commission Appropriation For The 2023-2024 Fiscal Year.

[HB1434](#): (Act 367): To Amend The Law Regarding Agriculture; And To Place The Burden Of Proof On The Party Bringing An Action Against An Agricultural Operation As A Nuisance.

[HB1454](#): (Act 541): To Amend The Definition Of A Homestead For Purposes Of Property Taxation; And To Provide That Certain Dwellings Owned By A Limited Liability Company Qualify As A Homestead.

[HB1479](#): To Prohibit The Purchase Of Or Acquisition Of Title To Agricultural Land By A Governmental Entity Of The People's Republic Of China Or Certain Entities Connected With The People's Republic Of China.

[HB1506](#): To Create A Sales And Use Tax Exemption For Parts Purchased To Repair Agricultural Equipment And Machinery And Timber Equipment And Machinery.

[HB1548](#): (Act 550): To Amend The Law Concerning The Period Of Time Certain Driver's License Applicants Are Required To Wait To Complete The Driver's Examination; And To Declare An Emergency.

[HB1588](#): To Amend The Uniform Commercial Code.

[HB1605](#): To Provide Regulation Of Hemp-derived Products By The Arkansas Tobacco Control Board.

[HB1611](#): To Amend Portions Of The Workers' Compensation Law That Resulted From Initiated Measure 1948, No. 4.; And To Allow Attorney's Fees To Be Awarded On Medical Benefits Or Services Awarded Under The Workers' Compensation Law.

[HB1612](#): To Amend Portions Of The Law Regarding Certain Workers' Compensation Payments Under The Workers' Compensation Law That Resulted From Initiated Measure 1948, No. 4.

[HB1618](#): (Act 588): To Transfer The Powers, Duties, And Responsibilities Of The State Plant Board Regarding Catfish Processors And Commercial Bait And Ornamental Fish To The Department Of Agriculture.

[HB1624](#): (Act 814): To Amend The Law Concerning The Projects Eligible For The Income Tax Credit For Surface Water Conversion Under The Water Resource Conservation And Development Incentives Act To

Include Projects In Chicot County.

[HB1627](#) (Act 521): To Clarify That Membership Dues Paid To Hunting Or Fishing Clubs Are Exempt From Sales Tax.:

[HB1653](#) (Act 737): To Prohibit The Purchase Of Small Unmanned Aircrafts Manufactured Or Assembled By A Covered Foreign Entity.

[HB1680](#): To Create The Arkansas Private Lands Conservation Income Tax Credit Act.

[HB1690](#) (Act 527): To Amend The Law Regarding Return To Service By Essential Seasonal Staff Members Of The Department Of Agriculture.

[HB1706](#) (Act 824): To Transfer The Authority Related To Liquid Animal Waste Management Systems From The Department Of Energy And Environment To The Department Of Agriculture.

[HB1707](#) (Act 530): To Amend The Arkansas Soil Nutrient Application And Poultry Litter Utilization Act; And To Provide That Nutrient Management Plans And Poultry Litter Management Plans Are Not Public Records.

[HB1710](#) (Act 746): To Establish The Rural Economic Development Initiative.

[HB1800](#): To Amend The Arkansas Plant Act Of 1917; To Require The State Plant Board To Consider Certain Data Related To Dicamba And To Set A Cutoff Date For The Use Of Dicamba Within A Specific Date Range.

[HB1833](#) (Act 853): To Amend the Revenue Stabilization Law; and To Declare and Emergency.

[HB1843](#): To Amend The Law Concerning Agricultural Promotion Boards; To Amend The Law Concerning The Appointment And Confirmation Of Members Of Agricultural Promotion Boards; And To Declare An Emergency.

[HR1030](#): Commending Arkansas Farmers, Ranchers, And Foresters For Their Vital Contributions To The Security And Economic Well-being Of The State And The Nation.

Senate Bills

[SB10](#) (Act 9): An Act For The Arkansas Catfish Promotion Board Appropriation For The 2023-2024 Fiscal Year.

[SB26](#) (Act 341): An Act For The Department Of Labor And Licensing - Workers' Compensation Commission Appropriation For The 2023-2024 Fiscal Year.

[SB83](#) (Act 873): An Act For The Department Of Agriculture Appropriation For The 2023-2024 Fiscal Year.

[SB101](#) (Act 124): To Amend Various Provisions Of The Arkansas Code As They Pertain To The University Of Arkansas.

[SB120](#): To Amend The Law Requiring Covers For Loads To Avoid Spilling Loads On Highways.

[SB144](#) (Act 382): An Act For The University Of Arkansas - System And Various Divisions Appropriation For The 2023-2024 Fiscal Year.

[SB185](#) (Act 346): To Amend The Appointment Procedure For The Tax Appeals Commission To Provide For The Filling Of Vacancies On The Commission; And To Declare An Emergency.

[SB191](#) (Act 135): To Amend The Method Of How Board Members Are Selected To The State Plant Board; And To Declare An Emergency.

[SB210](#) (Act 140): To Amend The Underground Storage Of Gas Law To Include Certain Other Gases.

[SB215](#): To Provide A Sales And Use Tax Exemption For Working Horses And Fencing Used In A Commercial Agricultural Production.

[SB221](#) (Act 219): An Act For The Department Of Agriculture Reappropriation.

[SB256](#): To Include Machinery And Equipment Used In Research And Development In The Sales And Use Tax Exemption For Certain Machinery And Equipment Used In Manufacturing.

[SB257](#): To Create The Access To Credit For Our Rural Economy (acre) Act; And To Provide An Income Tax Deduction For Certain Agricultural Loans.

[SB295](#) (Act 278): To Amend The Arkansas Renewable Energy Development Act Of 2001; To Prevent Cost-shifting And Ensure Fairness To All Ratepayers; To Create The Customer Protections For Net-metering Customers Act; And To Declare An Emergency.

[SB324](#) (Act 626): To Exempt Certain Nonprofit Agricultural Membership Organizations From Insurance Regulation.

[SB326](#): An Act For The Department Of Agriculture - Arkansas Natural Resources Commission Appropriation For The 2023-2024 Fiscal Year.

[SB327](#) (Act 878): An Act For The University Of Arkansas - Division Of Agriculture Capital Improvement Appropriation.

[SB340](#): To Amend The Law Concerning Ownership And Possession Of Real Property.

[SB358](#) (Act 629): To Prohibit Industrial Hemp That Contain Certain Delta Tetrahydrocannabinol Substances; To Include Certain Tetrahydrocannabinol In The List Of Schedule Vi Controlled Substances; And To Declare An Emergency.

[SB371](#): To Transfer The Arkansas Rural Services Commission And The Rural Services Division Of The Arkansas Economic Development Commission To The Department Of Agriculture; And To Declare An Emergency.

[SB383](#) (Act 636): To Amend The Law Concerning Ownership And Possession Of Real Property.

[SB402](#) (Act 690): Concerning The Election Of Directors Of A Conservation District; And To Amend The Procedure For The Election Of A Director Of A Conservation District.

[SB403](#) (Act 691): To Consolidate Agriculture Boards And Commissions; To Abolish Certain Boards Within The Department Of Agriculture; To Transfer The Duties Of Certain Boards Within The Department Of Agriculture; And To Declare An Emergency.

[SB407](#) (Act 693): To Require Energy Produced From Certain Sources Be Considered Carbon Neutral; And To Require Energy Produced From Certain Sources In Conjunction With Carbon Capture Technologies Be Considered Carbon Negative.

[SB415](#) (Act 695): To Establish The Arkansas Prescribed Burning Act.

[SB417](#): To Amend The Law Concerning Civil Liability For Damage Caused By Motor Vehicles Operated On Certain Public Bridges.

[SB440](#): To Allow Public High Schools That Offer Vocational Agriculture Training To Contract With Vocational Agriculture Teachers On A Twelve-month Basis.

[SB449](#): To Create The Arkansas Broadband Advisory Council; And To Declare An Emergency.

[SB451](#) (Act 648): To Amend The Law Regarding Career Education And Workforce Development.

[SB467](#) (Act 704): To Amend The Law Concerning The Arkansas Pollution Control And Ecology Commission; And To Amend The Membership Of The Arkansas Pollution Control And Ecology Commission.

[SB476](#) (Act 706): To Create The Rural Veterinary Student Scholarship Program; To Create The Agri Scholarship Program To Be Administered By The Department Of Agriculture; And To Create The Agri Scholarship Program Fund Within The Department Of Agriculture.

[SB478](#) (Act 881): To Provide Additional Funding For The Arkansas Port, Intermodal, And Waterway Development Grant Program Fund; And To Create A Waterways Investment Income Tax Credit.

[SB499](#) (interim study): Regarding Rice Promotion; To Amend The Assessments On Grown Rice; And To Declare An Emergency.

[SB506](#) (Act 712): To Transfer Certain Entities To The Department Of Agriculture; And To Transfer Agricultural Promotional Boards To The Department Of Agriculture By A Cabinet-level Department Transfer; And To Declare An Emergency.

[SB508](#) (Act 713): To Amend The Used Tire Recycling And Accountability Act; To Amend The Used Tire Programs; And To Declare An Emergency.

[SB529](#): To Amend The Arkansas Soil Nutrient Application And Poultry Litter Utilization Act; And To Require Certain Records Be Provided To The Arkansas Natural Resource Commission.

[SB549](#) (Act 532): To Reduce The Income Tax Rates Applicable To Individuals, Trusts, Estates, And Corporations.

[SB557](#) (Act 665): To Amend the Arkansas Environmental Quality Act of 1973; And To Amend The Membership Of The Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission.

[SB569](#) (Act 888): To Amend The Revenue Stabilization Law; And To Declare An Emergency.