

*Biography of*  
**THE HONORABLE BILL PRITCHARD**  
**ARKANSAS STATE SENATOR**



**SENATE MINORITY WHIP**  
**SENATE DISTRICT 35**

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Senator Bill Pritchard serves Senate District 35, which is comprised of parts of Benton and Washington counties in northwest Arkansas. He is currently serving his second term in the Senate, which began in 2007. Senator Pritchard is the Senate Minority Whip of the 87th General Assembly.

Currently, Senator Pritchard serves as chairman of Senate Public Health -Tobacco Settlement Process and of the Election Laws Subcommittee of the Senate State Agencies & Governmental Affairs Committee. He is vice chairman of Legislative Joint Auditing and the Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC)-Review Committee. He is also a member of several other committees, subcommittees and task forces including Arkansas Legislative Council; Joint Budget Committee; Joint Performance Review; Senate Rules, Resolutions and Memorials; Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor; State Agencies and Governmental Affairs; Governor's Emergency Fund Review Committee; the Community Services Oversight and Planning Council; and the Task Force on Substance Abuse Prevention. Senator Pritchard is active with the National Conference of State Legislatures and is a member of its Legislative Effectiveness Committee.

In the 2009 General Session, Senator Pritchard successfully passed legislation concerning alternate fingerprint-based background checks; funding for drug court participants, substance abuse treatment programs, senior citizen center grants, alcohol and substance abuse prevention and treatment programs; and drug task force grants.

In addition, he sponsored a bill for increased funding of the newly created University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences northwest Arkansas satellite campus. His legislative priorities are to work to provide full funding for drug courts throughout Arkansas, promote and support alcohol and drug abuse prevention programs, and to institute stricter accountability of tobacco settlement revenues.

Prior to his tenure in the Senate, Senator Pritchard began his career in public service in the Arkansas House of Representatives in 2001. He served three consecutive terms.

Senator Pritchard has been recognized for his civic and community achievements. In 2007, he received one of his most meaningful awards, the American Red Cross of Greater Arkansas' Good Samaritan Heroes Award. While vacationing in Florida, Senator Pritchard saved the life of a man who was drowning.

A small-business owner and rancher in northwest Arkansas, Senator Pritchard served in the United States Navy and is a Vietnam veteran. He and his wife, Karen, live in Elkins, Arkansas, and have one daughter.