

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES REGULAR AND FISCAL SESSION

FOR THE REGULAR SESSION

Pre-filing Bills and Resolutions:

Arkansas Code § 10-2-112(a) establishes November 15 of each year preceding a regular session of the General Assembly as the earliest date that legislation may be filed for introduction.

Convening regular session:

Arkansas Code § 10-2-101(a) sets 12:00 noon on the second Monday in January of each odd-numbered year for the convening of the General Assembly in regular session. This rule is derived from Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 5, which permits the General Assembly to establish the date.

Deadline to file retirement legislation and certain health care legislation:

Joint Rules and Arkansas Code § 10-2-115 require that legislation affecting any publicly supported retirement system or pension plan be introduced during the first fifteen days of the regular session. After the fifteenth day of the regular session, retirement legislation must be approved for introduction by a three-fourths vote of the full membership of each house. Joint Rules require that proposed legislation affecting the licensure of any profession, occupation, or class of health care providers not currently licensed or expanding the scope of practice of any profession, occupation, or class of health care providers to be considered by the General Assembly at a regular biennial session be introduced in the General Assembly during the first fifteen calendar days of a regular biennial session. After the fifteenth day of the regular session, any proposed legislation affecting the licensure of any profession, occupation, or class of health care providers not currently licensed or expanding the scope of practice of any profession, occupation, or class of health care providers must be approved for introduction by a three-fourths vote of the full membership of each house.

Deadline to file constitutional amendments:

Joint Rules state: “No resolution proposing a constitutional amendment shall be filed in either the House of Representatives or the Senate after the thirty-first (31st) day of each regular session of the General Assembly.”

Deadline to file appropriation bills:

Joint Rules state: “No appropriation bill shall be filed for introduction in either the House of Representatives or the Senate later than the fiftieth (50th) day of each regular session except upon consent of two-thirds of the members elected to each house; ...”

Final deadline to file any legislation:

Joint Rules state: “...and, no bill shall be filed for introduction in either the House of Representatives or the Senate later than the fifty-fifth (55th) day of each regular session except upon consent of two-thirds of the members elected to each house; ...” The deadline is extended past the 55th day because the rule provides that if the deadline falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the deadline will be the following Monday. This rule is derived from Arkansas Constitution, Art. 5, § 34, which prohibits bills from being filed during the last three days of a session.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

FOR THE FISCAL SESSION

Pre-filing:

Pre-filing begins the second Monday of January of each year of a fiscal session of the General Assembly which is held in a year in which the preferential primary election is held in May (this is the 2022 Fiscal Session) and the second Monday of March of each year of a fiscal session of the General Assembly which is held in a year in which the preferential primary election is held in March (this is the 2020 Fiscal Session).

Convening of fiscal session:

The General Assembly shall meet in a fiscal session at 12:00 noon on the on the second Monday in February in the years in which the preferential primary election is held in May (this is the 2022 Fiscal Session) and on the second Wednesday in April in the years in which the preferential primary election is held in March (this is the 2020 Fiscal Session). This rule is derived from Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 5, which permits the General Assembly to establish the dates of a Fiscal Session. Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 17 states that the fiscal session shall not exceed thirty calendar days in duration. The fiscal session may be given a one-time extension not to exceed fifteen calendar days by a vote of three-fourths of the members elected to each house of the General Assembly.

Deadline for filing appropriation bills:

Joint Rules state: The deadline for filing appropriation bills is no later than the fifteenth (15th) day of the fiscal session. In order to extend the deadline, a two-third (2/3) vote is required by the General Assembly. Deadline for filing General Legislation or non-appropriation bills that have been approved with the passage of Identical Resolutions. However, the deadline for the Identical Resolutions needed to introduce General Legislation or non-appropriation bills is April 8, 2020.

Deadline for filing Identical Resolution for nonappropriation bills:

Joint Rules state that identical resolutions may not be filed later than the first day of each fiscal session. A two-third (2/3) vote is required by both by houses of the General Assembly.

Deadline for filing General Legislation after Identical Resolutions have been approved:

Joint Rules state: "That general legislation may not be filed later than the fifteenth (15th) day of the fiscal session and after identical resolutions have been approved."

Constitutional Amendments:

Joint Rules state: "A resolution proposing a constitutional amendment may be considered only during a regular session."

Retirement Bills:

A bill affecting any publicly supported retirement system or systems shall **not** be introduced or considered at any special session or fiscal session of the General Assembly unless the introduction and consideration of the bill is first approved by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the General Assembly.