

**2017 REGULAR SESSION  
IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES**

**Pre-filing Bills and Resolutions: November 15, 2016**

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.

**Pre-Session Budget Hearings: October 11, 2016 - November 17, 2016**

The budget hearings of the Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC) begin October 11, 2016 and are scheduled to conclude November 17, 2016. The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) sits with the ALC as voting participants in the hearings, creating the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget Committee (ALC/JBC).

**Executive Balanced Budget: Prior to November 10, 2016**

The Director of DFA is required to present the Official General Revenue Forecast and balanced budget no later than 60 days prior to the beginning of the regular session.

**Feasibility Study for Certain Health Care Legislation introduced by a member of the House of Representatives – December 9, 2016**

House Rule 72.(a) provides that except as provided in subsection (b), no action may be taken in the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor or on the Floor of the House of Representatives on any bill that provides for licensure of any profession, occupation or class of health care providers not currently licensed or expands the scope of practice of any profession, occupation, or class of health care providers unless the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor has initiated a study of the feasibility of such legislation at least thirty (30) days prior to convening the next legislative session.

House Rule 72.(b) provides that bill providing for the licensure of any profession, occupation, or class of health care providers not currently licensed or expanding the scope of any practice of any profession, occupation, or class of health care providers may be acted upon without the initiation of a feasibility study required in subsection (a) upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee membership.

**Convening regular session: January 9, 2017**

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.

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**Deadline to file retirement legislation and certain health care legislation: January 23, 2017\***

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: February 8, 2017**

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: February 27, 2017\***

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: March 6, 2017\***

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.

(\*) This deadline may be extended.