

ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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Sen. Henry "Hank" Wilkins, IV

Senate Co-Chair

Rep. Allen Maxwell

House Co-Chair

Sen. Steve Faris

Senate Co-Vice Chair

Rep. Nathan George

House Co-Vice Chair



Room 315, State Capitol Building
Little Rock, AR 72201

David Ferguson
Executive Secretary

Tel: 501-682-1937
Fax: 501-682-1936

August 26, 2009

TO: MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RE: FISCAL SESSION 2010

Dear Members of the General Assembly:

At the request of the Arkansas Legislative Council, enclosed you will find a summary of the procedures, timelines, and pending issues for the 2010 Fiscal Session. Specifically, attached is a calendar of dates for the Fiscal Session, the procedures for the budget hearings, and a summary of Senate Concurrent Resolution 10, which established the procedure for introducing general legislation during the Fiscal Session.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 501-682-1937.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Ferguson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Ferguson
Executive Secretary

DF:vjf

Enclosures

December 2009

Fiscal Session 2010

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1 FY 2011 Revenue Forecast/Governor's Balanced Budget released to Legislative Council (ALC)	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

2009

January

Fiscal Session 2010

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1	2
3	4 Final date for submission of Budget Requests and Recommendations for "Big 6" and other agencies approved by ALC at its November meeting	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Prefiling Begins for Appropriation Bills & Concurrent Resolutions for other subjects (RSA)	12 Joint Budget Committee (JBC) Budget Hearings Begin	13	14	15	16
17	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday No Budget Hearings	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 JBC Final Date for Budget Hearings To End	30
31						

2010

February

Fiscal Session 2010

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1 Final Bill Preparation Fiscal Staff (all week)	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 12 Noon Fiscal Session Begins JBC Meeting Deadline for Concurrent Resolutions for non appropriation bills (RSA) (2/3 vote required)	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Deadline for Filing non appropriation bills Deadline for filing appropriation bills (2/3 vote to extend)	23	24	25	26	27
28						

2010

March

Fiscal Session 2010

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 30th Day of Session (3/4 vote to extend)	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 45th Day of Session No extension option available	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

2010

ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Senator Gilbert Baker
Senate Co-Chairman

Senator Terry Smith
Senate Vice-Chair



Representative Bruce Maloch
House Co-Chairman

Rep. Kathy Webb
House Vice-Chair

JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE

August 24, 2009

Members of the Arkansas General Assembly:

This is to advise regarding motions adopted by the Joint Budget Committee during the 2009 Regular Session pertaining to pre-fiscal session budget hearings and establishing the legislative recommendation for appropriation bills for the 2011 fiscal year for drafting purposes and introduction during the 2010 fiscal session.

During the 2009 Regular Session the Joint Budget Committee adopted procedures for holding limited pre-fiscal session budget hearings. The committee adopted a motion to conduct a limited budget hearing process beginning in January 2010, for a 2-3 week period before the Fiscal Session begins on February 8, 2010. The entities the Joint Budget Committee determined it wanted to automatically include in the January 2010 budget hearing process are the Department of Education Public School Fund Account, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health, the Department of Correction, the Department of Community Correction, and all the institutions of higher education. These entities as a group are what has been referred to and become known as the "Big 6". In addition to the "Big 6", other agencies may be approved by the Arkansas Legislative Council to be included in the pre-fiscal session budget hearing process conducted by the Joint Budget Committee.

In order to have a legislative recommendation for appropriation bill introduction purposes, the fiscal staff of the Bureau of Legislative Research was instructed by the Joint Budget Committee to prepare operating appropriation bills for the 2011 fiscal year based on recommendations made by the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget Committee during its 2008 fall budget hearings, plus any changes approved for an agency or institution during the 2009 Regular Session and included in the agency or institutions appropriation bill for the 2010 fiscal year. With the exception of those state agencies and institutions of higher education that are part of the pre-fiscal session budget hearings and which will receive a legislative recommendation through that process, the 2011 fiscal year operating appropriation bills for all other state agencies, boards and commissions will be drafted based on the Joint Budget Committees instructions adopted during the 2009 Regular Legislative Session.

In regard to various agency and institution Capital Project appropriations for the 2011 fiscal year, bills will be introduced that contain appropriations for projects that are included in the various General Improvement Distribution Acts passed in previous legislative sessions if funds for the project are still available.

For your information, attached is a Fiscal Session 2010 calendar with pertinent dates. If you should have any questions or need any additional information, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Gilbert Baker, Senate Chair
Joint Budget Committee

Bruce Maloch, House Chair
Joint Budget Committee



State of Arkansas
Bureau of
Legislative Research

David Ferguson., Director
Kim Amall, Assistant Director
for Fiscal Services
Marty Garrity, Assistant Director
for Legal Services
Richard Wilson, Assistant Director
for Research Services

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Hank Wilkins & Representative Allen Maxwell
FROM: David Ferguson
DATE: August 21, 2009
SUBJECT: Joint Rules for Fiscal Session

Senate Concurrent Resolution 10 sponsored by Senator Whitaker and Representative Maloch established the procedures, deadlines, timelines for the introduction of fiscal and general legislation during a Fiscal Session.

FISCAL LEGISLATION

Pre-filing date - The second Monday of January of each year of a fiscal session (January 11, 2010)

Deadline for filing - No later than the fifteenth (15th) day of the fiscal session (February 22, 2010)

GENERAL LEGISLATION

Article 5, § 5 of the Arkansas Constitution provides that a bill other than an appropriation bill may be considered in a fiscal session if two-thirds (2/3) of the members of each house of the General Assembly approve consideration of the bill. Therefore, before a bill may be considered, the General Assembly shall approve a concurrent resolution authorizing the introduction of a bill. Article 6, § 17 of the Arkansas Constitution requires approval of the concurrent resolution.

Pre-filing date for Concurrent Resolution - The second Monday of January of each year of a fiscal session (January 11, 2010)

Deadline for filing a Concurrent Resolution - No later than the first (1st) day of the fiscal session (February 8, 2010)

Deadline for filing General Legislation after Concurrent Resolution has been approved - No later than the fifteenth (15th) day of the fiscal session (February 22, 2010)

OTHER PROVISIONS

Constitutional Amendments - Section 21 of the Joint Rules provides that a resolution proposing a constitutional amendment may be considered only during a regular session.

Revenue Stabilization Law - Section 18(E)(7) of the Joint Rules provides that the schedule reflecting the allocation of funds in the Revenue Stabilization Law for the next fiscal year shall be submitted to each body of the General Assembly at least three (3) days prior to the day at which the law is to be considered for final passage.

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

Consideration of a Concurrent Resolution - It is still to be determined by each chamber whether the concurrent resolutions will be submitted to a standing committee for consideration and approval or will be referred directly to the chamber calendar for a vote.

Text of the Concurrent Resolution - A decision has not been made as to whether the full text of the bill shall be included in the concurrent resolution or if a general description of the proposed text of the bill will only be required.

TIMELINE

30-Day Session - Article 5, § 17 of the Arkansas Constitution provides that the fiscal session shall not exceed thirty (30) calendar days in duration (March 9, 2010)

One Fifteen-Day Extension - The fiscal session may be extended one time for no more than fifteen (15) calendar days by a vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the members elected to each house of the General Assembly (March 24, 2010)

RETIREMENT BILLS

Act 962 of 2009 also made various technical corrections to the Arkansas Code to include references to the fiscal sessions. Of importance is amended Arkansas Code § 10-2-115 that provides in part:

(c) 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 full membership of each house of the General Assembly.