

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



**CHAIRMAN - LEGISLATIVE JOINT AUDITING**  
**SENATE DISTRICT 35**

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Senator Bill Pritchard serves Senate District 35, which comprises parts of Benton and Washington counties in northwest Arkansas. He is currently serving his third term in the Senate; his tenure began in 2007. During the 88th General Assembly, he serves as chairman of Legislative Joint Audit and on the following legislative committees: Joint Budget; Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC); Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor; Senate State Agencies and Governmental Affairs; Senate Rules, Resolutions and Memorials; and Joint Performance Review.

In the 87th General Assembly, Senator Pritchard served as the Senate Minority Whip and as chairman of two subcommittees: Senate Health Services and Senate Election Laws Subcommittee; and as chairman of two task forces: the Task Force on Substance Abuse Prevention and the Task Force on Substance Abuse Treatment. He served as vice chairman of three committees: Legislative Joint Auditing, ALC-Review and ALC-JBC Human Services Subcommittee. He was 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; and the Community Services Oversight and Planning Council.

Regionally and nationally, Senator Pritchard is active with the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and the Council of State Governments (CSG). He has served on the Legislative Effectiveness and the Health Committees of NCSL and the Suggested State Legislation Committee of CSG.

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 Era veteran. He and his wife, Karen, live in Elkins, Arkansas, and have one daughter and two grandchildren.