

**2021 REGULAR SESSION
IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES**

Pre-filing Bills and Resolutions: November 16, 2020

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 13, 2020 - November 12, 2020

The budget hearings of the Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC) begin October 13, 2020 and are scheduled to conclude November 12, 2020. 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 12, 2020

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 General Assembly – December 14, 2020

House Rule 72.(a) and Senate Rule 7.05 provide that no action may be taken in the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor, on the floor of the House of Representatives, in the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor, or on the floor of the Senate 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 or the Senate 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) and Senate Rule 7.05 provide that a 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 upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee membership or upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee membership .

Convening regular session: January 11, 2021

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 25, 2021*

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 10, 2021

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: March 1, 2021*

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; ...”

(*) This deadline may be extended.