



ARKANSAS AUTOMOBILE DEALERS ASSOCIATION

AADA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE #1

January 15, 2021



The 93rd General Assembly convened this week on Monday, January 11, 2021, to start a session unlike any we have ever seen.

The week started with a joint statement from the Arkansas Secretary of State, Senate, and House of Representatives on the rules and procedures for this session. This statement is available by clicking [here](#).

Included in this announcement are the processes for entering the Capitol Building, a restructuring of the committee schedules, committee meeting rooms, and committee agendas as well as explanations on public seating and procedures for testifying in committees. Additionally, Legislative leadership has requested that all planned meetings and outside events be suspended until further notice.

While things may be operating differently this year, protecting dealer's interests at the Capitol remains the objective for AADA.

GOV. ASA HUTCHINSON'S STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

On Tuesday, January 12, 2021, Governor Asa Hutchinson gave his State of the State address from the House Chamber with the Senate watching remotely from their Chamber.

The Governor said the first responsibility of the Session is to act on the state's health care emergency. He said the Legislature has been a good partner and the current public health emergency rules are in effect until February 27. The Governor asked that the Legislature continue the emergency declaration to provide use of telemedicine, provide necessary immunity for business, and continue other key aspects of prior orders.

Gov. Hutchinson also asked for appropriation to allow federal COVID-19 relief funds to be spent on getting vaccines into the arms of Arkansans quickly, and made the point that this help is needed to provide the Health Department critical infrastructure to deliver the vaccine and provide assistance for schools.

The Governor announced his support for a number of initiatives including the following: another round of increased pay for teachers; passage of hate crime legislation as Arkansas is one of only three states that have not passed hate crime legislation; an expansion of rural broadband across the state; and, tax relief for individuals moving into the state.

Governor Hutchinson then reviewed some of the accomplishments of his administration over his tenure including \$800 million in tax relief, teacher pay increases, over 1,000 fewer state employees from 2015 creating a savings of \$77 million, a strong budget position with over \$200 million in unallocated dollars and state income currently over forecast by \$300 million, and finally there are 53,000 more people employed now than 2015 even with the pandemic.

BILLS OF INTEREST FOR AADA

[HB 1028](#) Rep. Cavanaugh: TO AMEND THE LAW TO EXTEND THE TIME PERIOD AUTHORIZED FOR THE REGISTRATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE; AND TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING TEMPORARY PREPRINTED PAPER BUYER'S TAGS.

[HB 1060](#) Rep. Mayberry: CONCERNING THE TAX TREATMENT OF FORGIVABLE SMALL BUSINESS LOANS AND EXPENSES RELATED TO THE CORONAVIRUS 2019 (COVID-19) CRISIS; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

[HB 1160](#) Rep. Payton: TO INCREASE THE SALES AND USE TAX EXEMPTION FOR A USED MOTOR VEHICLE; AND TO ELIMINATE THE SALES AND USE TAX EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLES, TRAILERS, AND SEMITRAILERS.

[SB 16](#) Sen. D. Sullivan: TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF INITIATED ACT 4 OF 1948; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY. (Amends the Workers Compensation Law under COVID-19)

[SB 17](#) Sen. D. Sullivan: CONCERNING BUSINESS LIABILITY FOR A PERSON EXPOSED TO CORONAVIRUS 2019 (COVID-19); AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

[SB 117](#) Sen. M. Johnson: TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE REQUIREMENT THAT AN ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION FEE BE PAID FOR ELECTRIC AND HYBRID VEHICLES; AND TO REPEAL THE ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF HYBRID VEHICLES.

[HR 1002](#) Rep. Fite: TO URGE THE ACTIVATION OF CLOSED CAPTIONING ON TELEVISION MONITORS IN PUBLIC VENUES.

Let me know if you are aware of a bill that needs to be monitored that was inadvertently left off this list.

THE UPCOMING WEEK

The General Assembly will be in recess until Tuesday, January 19, 2021, in honor of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

To view schedules, calendars, bill information and legislator information, click [here](#).

Legislative Message Center

House of Representatives: 501-682-6211

Senate: 501-682-2902

Live Streaming from the Capitol

The House and Senate have links to live streaming of their committee meetings and floor session online.

- House [here](#)
- Senate [here](#)

Thanks for everything each of you do, and if you have any questions about this bulletin please don't hesitate to call, 501-372-2596, or email Greg Kirkpatrick greg@arkautodealers.com.