

## ARKANSAS H.B. 1031 - MANDATED BENEFITS

**Sponsor:** Representative Fred Allen (D)

**Summary:** Final version (January 15) requires all health benefit plans offered, issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2010 to include coverage of prostate cancer screening for men forty years of age or older. Requires the prostate cancer screening to include a prostate-specific antigen blood test and a digital rectal examination. Provides that the prostate cancer screening shall be performed by a qualified medical professional. Effective 90 days after adjournment.

Final version: <http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2009/R/Acts/Act75.pdf>

**Status:** Prefiled December 19, 2008. Referred to House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee January 12, 2009. Hearing held, amended and passed committee January 15. Passed House and transmitted to Senate January 21. Referred to Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee January 22. Passed committee January 28. Passed Senate February 2. Enrolled and delivered to Governor Mike Beebe February 2. Signed by Governor February 5.

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## ARKANSAS H.B. 1362 - WORKERS' COMPENSATION (GENERAL)

**Sponsor:** Representative Mike Burriss (D)

**Summary:** Final version clarifies the law regarding workers' compensation payments and ensures that licensed contractors obtain and maintain workers' compensation insurance.

Final version: <http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2009/R/Bills/HB1362.pdf>

**Status:** Introduced in House and referred to Insurance and Commerce Committee February 4, 2009. Amended February 5. Hearing held February 6. Hearing held February 11. Hearing held and amended February 13. Hearing held, amended and passed committee February 20. Passed House and referred to Senate Insurance and Commerce Committee February 24. Passed committee March 3. Passed Senate and sent to Governor Mike Beebe (D) March 4. Signed by Governor Mike Beebe (D) March 9.

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## ARKANSAS H.B. 1363 - MANDATED BENEFITS

**Sponsor:** Representative Mike Burriss (D)

**Summary:** Final version (February 6) clarifies standards for insurance coverage for cancer and other medications and provides discretion in the choice of standards. Effective 90 days after legislative adjournment.

Final version: <http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2009/R/Bills/HB1363.pdf>

**Status:** Introduced in House and referred to Insurance and Commerce Committee February 4, 2009. Amended February 6. Hearing held February 6. Hearing held passed committee February 11. Passed House February 12. Introduced in Senate and referred to Insurance and Commerce Committee February 12. Passed committee February 17. Passed Senate February 23. Delivered to Governor Mike Beebe (D) February 23. Signed by Governor February 26.

## **ARKANSAS H.B. 1552 - WORKPLACE PRIVACY**

**Sponsor:** Representative Lindsley Smith (D)

**Summary:** Final version requires employers to provide unpaid break time and reasonable locations for expressing breast milk. Employers are not obligated to provide break time if it would create an "undue hardship" on the operations of the employer. Effective 90 days after adjournment.

Final version: <http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2009/R/Bills/HB1552.pdf>

**Status:** Introduced in House and referred to Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee February 19, 2009. Hearing held February 24. Passed committee with amendments March 3. Passed House, transmitted to Senate and referred to Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee March 5. Reported from Committee do pass as amended March 16. Passed Senate as amended March 18. Returned to House and re-referred to House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee March 19. Passed committee with amendments March 24. Passed House March 5. Signed by Governor Mike Beebe (D) March 30.

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## **ARKANSAS H.B. 1576 - WAGE AND HOUR**

**Sponsor:** Representative Lindsley Smith (D)

**Summary:** Final version adjusts for inflation the amount in controversy regarding wage disputes heard and decided by the director of the department of labor.

Final version: <http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2009/R/Bills/HB1576.pdf>

**Status:** Introduced in House and referred to Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee February 23, 2009. Hearing held March 5. Passed Committee March 12. Passed House and transmitted to Senate March 13. Referred to Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee March 16. Passed Committee March 18. Passed Senate March 24. Signed by Governor Mike Beebe (D) March 30.

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## **ARKANSAS H.B. 1587 - WORKPLACE PRIVACY**

**Sponsor:** Representative Linda Tyler (D)

**Summary:** Final version clarifies that employer-required drug tests are to be provided at no cost to employees. If an employee tests positive for a drug during a test, the employer and employee must sign an agreement as to who will make payments for future tests. Effective 90 days after adjournment.

Final version: <http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2009/R/Bills/HB1587.pdf>

**Status:** Introduced in House and Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee February 23, 2009. Amended February 27. Passed committee March 3. Passed House, introduced in Senate and referred to Senate Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committee March 4. Passed committee March 11. Passed Senate and sent to Governor March 17. Signed by Governor Mike Beebe (D) March 19.

## **ARKANSAS H.B. 1930 - MANDATED BENEFITS**

**Sponsor:** Representative Pam Adcock (D)

**Summary:** Final version requires the state to provide coverage for a hearing aid or hearing instrument sold on or after January 1, 2010, by a professional licensed by the state to dispense a hearing aid or hearing instrument. It also sets a minimum coverage of \$1,400 per hearing aid. Requires health benefits plans to provide coverage for hearing aids.

Effective January 1, 2010.

Final version: <http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2009/R/Bills/HB1930.pdf>

**Status:** Introduced in House and referred to Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committee March 5, 2009. Hearing held March 10. Hearing held March 19. Amendment adopted March 25. Passed committee with amendments March 26. Reported from Committee as amended March 27. Passed House and transmitted to Senate March 31. Passed Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee April 3. Passed Senate and sent to Governor Mike Beebe (D) April 6. Signed by Governor Mike Beebe (D) April 7.

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## **ARKANSAS H.B. 2244 - MANDATED BENEFITS**

**Sponsor:** Representative Bruce Maloch (D)

**Summary:** Final version mandates health coverage for orthotic and prosthetic devices and services. Requires at least 80% of the Medicare allowable rate to be covered.

Effective 90 days after adjournment.

Final version: <http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2009/R/Bills/HB2244.pdf>

**Status:** Introduced in House and referred to Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee March 9, 2009. Amendment adopted March 17. Hearing held March 19. Passed committee March 26. Passed House March 27. Referred to Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee March 30. Passed committee April 1. Passed Senate April 2. Sent to Governor Mike Beebe (D) April 3. Signed by Governor Mike Beebe (D) April 6.