

Week Eight

CALL TO ACTION!!!

There are two bills that will be in committee this week that AGRMA opposes and we need you to call your legislator and ask them to vote NO!

SB 825

Sponsors: Senator Ulvade Lindsey - Fayetteville
Representative Dan Douglas - Bentonville / Rogers

Requires the Department of Finance and Administration to prepare a quarterly report listing all businesses (BY NAME) remitting sales and use tax information and making the report available to county and municipality administrators upon request.

*This bill will report to all cities and counties by **your company's name** the sales tax your company collected and remitted to the Department of Finance and Administration. The proponents of this bill feel having your private information will help them make decisions on budgeting! This is YOUR PROPRIETARY Information, we need to protect it!*

AGRMA is opposed to this bill!

Please contact your legislator or any you know and ask them to VOTE NO!

SB 500

Sponsors: Senator Jon Woods - Springdale
Representative Micah Neal - Springdale

Revises provisions governing collection and remittance of an E911 emergency services charge on prepaid wireless telephone devices.

*This bill is levying a charge for prepaid wireless telecommunications service to support the 911 commission that is in effect now, being collected at the wholesale level. **This bill requires a retailer to collect this charge from their consumers.** It will also provide additional rules governing the requirements and liabilities of sellers. This bill has gone cross country and the proponents to this bill are using that to try to pass it. The national chains are already forced in some states to do this. AGRMA has recommended that the fee be treated like the soft drink tax by licensing the wholesaler and requiring the retailer to **only** buy from licensed wholesaler. In rural areas of Arkansas where an independent may not be capable of collecting this fee, the consumer loses! It might be their only means of*

*communication and they will have to drive miles to purchase the minutes needed! AGRMA is **not** against the 911 fee but we are against the collection point being at the retail level!*

Please contact your legislator or any you know and ask them to VOTE NO!

To find you legislator's please go to this web site:

Click on [Find your legislator](#)

"RETAIL" DAY ON THE HILL

Join the Arkansas Grocers and Retail Merchants

DATE: April 9, 2013

STARTING TIME: 9:30 AM

LOCATION: Arkansas State Capitol
and Capitol Hill Apartments Lobby

Please click below to RSVP!

[For more information click here.](#)

Bills of Interest Filed this Week ...

Monday, March 11th is the last day for all bills to be filed. There will be many "shell bills" filed and many bills we are expecting. From then on we have to watch very carefully the amendments.

HB1744	Sponsor: Hobbs	TO INCREASE THE FOOD SERVICE PERMIT FEE.
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AGRMA agreed to this fee increase several years ago so that the Health Department can use more technology to communicate with sanitarians and the retailers. It will not pass due to the NO TAX or fee increase pledges.

HB1801	Sponsor: Hammer	CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF SCRAP METAL TRANSACTIONS AND ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM OF THE THEFT OF SCRAP METAL.
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There are actually several bills dealing with scrap metal and the theft of scrap metal.

HB1821	Sponsor: E. Armstrong	TO REQUIRE THAT PARKING LOT SIGNS INDICATING SPACES DEDICATED FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES DISPLAY THE TERM "RESERVED".
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I have not talked to Representative Armstrong so I don't know how serious he is about this bill.

HB1701	Barnett	TO AMEND THE REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY ACT; AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.
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This is a bill that passed last regular session letting areas deal with mobility. I just wanted the companies to know this bill was filed.

To look up any bill, to get the full text, go to:

<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2013/2013R/Pages/Home.aspx>

****Pharmacy News****

There was only one new pharmacy bill filed this week.

SB813 J. Woods CONCERNING A PRESCRIPTION FOR A TYPE OF MUSCLE RELAXANT; TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF OBJECTIVE FINDINGS ENACTED BY INITIATED ACT 4 OF 1948.

What else is going on ...

HOT TOPIC

EMPLOYEE HANDGUNS ON COMPANY PROPERTY

HB 1269 - by Rep. John Catlett was on Friday's House calendar for an amendment.

Amendment No. 3 allows the Department of Human Services to disallow an employee to keep a handgun in his or her vehicle if the employee conducts certain activities in the course of work such as transporting children or persons with mental illness. The bill would prohibit an employer from basing an employee's employment status on concealed handgun licensure and would require employers to permit employees with handgun licenses to possess a handgun locked inside a vehicle in the employer's parking lot. It includes exemptions for certain properties owned by chemical, oil or gas companies and for property owned by a person other than the employer that is subject to a mineral lease. It also precludes liability of an employer for damages resulting from an employee's possession of a handgun and states that the employer does not have a duty to patrol or secure the parking area.

AGRMA acknowledges and supports an individual's Second Amendment Rights. However, we believe weapons policies should be a private property owner's choice - not a decision mandated by state government. HB 1269 protects the rights of the State to prohibit concealed weapons on government-owned parking lots, but dictates that private property owners and private businesses may not govern themselves when it comes to concealed weapons on private property. Handgun policies at private businesses should be determined on a case-by-case basis within individual businesses.

Employee safety is a top priority for all businesses in Arkansas and all employers should have the right to manage the weapons policies on their respective properties. A 2005 study published in the American Journal of Public Health found that job sites with guns are five (5) times more likely to suffer workplace homicides. Also, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, in an average week in U.S. workplaces, one (1) employee is killed and at least twenty-five (25) are seriously injured in violent assaults by current or former co-workers. Most of these attacks involve guns.

INDEMNITY CLAUSES

SB 762 - by Sen. Jeremy Hutchinson would prohibit enforcement of indemnity or hold harmless clauses in motor carrier transportation contracts. It received a Do Pass

recommendation from the Senate Judiciary Committee last Wednesday, but Sen. Hutchinson agreed to hold the bill while several organizations review the legislation.

Please take a close look at this bill and contact us immediately if you have concerns.