

## ***Week Six***

*Join the Arkansas Grocers and  
Retail Merchants for:*

# **"RETAIL" DAY ON THE HILL**

**DATE:**

April 9, 2013

**STARTING TIME:**

9:30 AM

**LOCATION:**

Arkansas State Capitol  
and Capitol Hill Apartments Lobby

Be sure to check your email for an invitation with complete details for the AGRMA Legislative Day on the Hill! We need to show the strength that the Retail industry has in the state of Arkansas. Please feel free to invite your colleagues and other retailers that would add to our strength at the capitol.

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### ***Bills of Interest Filed this Week ...***

- HB 1418 by Rep. Jonathan Barnett would

phase in over 10 years the sales and use tax from road-user items to the highway fund. The phase-in would not take place until general sales tax revenue as a portion of General Revenue reaches \$2.2 billion. This bill has been referred to the House Public Transportation Committee.

***This is a Highway funding bill with a trigger to when it would take effect.***

- HB 1402 by Rep. Butch Wilkins would raise the state hourly minimum wage from \$6.25 to \$8.25 beginning October 1, 2013. It would also change the calculation for student employees from an effective hourly minimum wage of \$5.52 to \$5.36.

The current federal minimum wage is \$7.25. HB 1402 is on the House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee agenda. **MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE**

*Please contact your legislators and tell them about the impact this legislation would have on your business.*

- SB356 Senator Jake Files TO AMEND ACT 70 OF THE 2011 ACTS OF ARKANSAS TO PROVIDE THAT FRANCHISES AND CONTRACTUAL BRANDING AGREEMENTS ARE PERMITTED; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY. Allows franchise contracts between a retail liquor permit holder and a person, firm or corporation to use only the person, firm or corporation's trade name and trade characteristics; limits to ten agreements for each person, firm or corporation.

**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 were a couple of new pharmacy bills filed this week.

SB386 Sponsor: Senator J. Dismang TO REQUIRE THAT THERAPEUTICALLY EQUIVALENT DRUG SUBSTITUTIONS BE AUTHORIZED ON EACH PRESCRIPTION.  
HB1415 Sponsor: Representative John Vines CONCERNING SCHEDULING A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE AS A SCHEDULE VI CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE.

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### ***What else is going on ...***

In every regular session the Arkansas legislature may refer three proposed constitutional amendments to Arkansas voters.

Last week saw the deadline for legislators to introduce proposed amendments, and 37 were filed. The 18 filed by senators were referred to the Senate Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs and the 19 filed by representatives went to the House State Agencies Committee. The proposals are in the form of Senate and House Joint Resolutions.

SJR 1 would require voters to present a photo ID when voting. The identity card would have to be issued by a government agency.

SJR 2, SJR 5 and SJR 6 are tort reform measures that would establish procedures used by courts in trying civil cases. In 2003 the legislature enacted a tort reform law that set limits on how much a plaintiff could claim in punitive damages, and setting standards for admitting evidence. However, a series of court decisions has eroded many of the original provisions of the 2003 law. Supporters of tort reform want it written in the constitution. If tort reform is approved by voters in a statewide election and written into the constitution, it cannot be struck down as unconstitutional.

SJR 3 would restructure the Highway Commission and the Game and Fish Commission to require that their members be elected, instead of appointed by the governor. SJR 4 would require a 75 percent majority of the legislature for passage of all tax increases. Now, some tax increases, including sales tax increases, require a 51 percent majority for passage.

Many of the Senate Joint Resolutions filed last week were shells. They have a title that describes the general topic, but they have no details yet. Examples are proposals to change the process for placing referendums on the ballot, to set ethical standards for public officials and to delineate the regulatory power of state agencies. The details will emerge when the resolutions are amended by their sponsors.

Three public school choice bills have also been filed.