



STATE OF ARKANSAS

*House of Representatives*



# NEWSLETTER FROM REP. David Whitaker DISTRICT 22

March 24, 2021

## DAILY SUMMARY FOR MARCH 23, 2021

The General Assembly will be in recess for the remainder of this week. Before adjourning for the week, the House passed several bills, including the following:

HB1766-This bill increases the monthly state contribution to state and public school life and health insurance from \$450 to \$550 per employee.

HB1499-This bill addresses services and response time for child abuse cases in the state.

It states that a child safety center shall receive, review, and track reporting from the Department of Human Services relating to the alleged abuse or neglect of a child in order to ensure a consistent and comprehensive approach to providing services to a child and the family of a child who is the victim of alleged abuse or neglect.

The child safety center is also directed to work with participating agencies relating to the delivery of services to a child and the family of a child who is the alleged victim of abuse or neglect.

HB1731-This bill states that upon the declaration of a mistrial during the sentencing proceeding in a capital murder trial, the prosecuting attorney may move the trial court to impose a sentence of life without parole or impanel a new sentencing jury. It also states that a mistrial during the sentencing proceeding shall not result in the invalidation of the finding of guilt for a capital felony.

The House will convene again on Monday at 1 pm.