STATE OF ARKANSAS
House of Representatives

Newsletter From Rep. R. Scott Richardson

District 13

February 11, 2025

Daily Summary for Tuesday, February 11, 2025

The House Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committee advanced HB1427, the *Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies Act.* This bill establishes presumptive Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women, creates reimbursement pathways for doulas and community health workers, and expands Medicaid coverage to include remote ultrasounds, remote blood pressure monitoring, and continuous glucose monitoring. It also unbundles Medicaid payments for pregnancy care, covering up to 14 prenatal and postnatal visits. The bill represents a $45.3 million investment in maternal health.

The House Education Committee advanced SB59, which would ensure that every student can receive one free breakfast per school day upon request, regardless of eligibility for federally funded free or reduced-price meals.

The House passed HB1060. This bill states that prior to the 2026-2027 school year, the Department of Education shall review and update current social studies standards for grades 7-12 in all public schools to include age-appropriate adjustments in order to ensure curricula, standards, materials, and units accurately compare and contrast the resiliency of the United States's constitutional republic with the failures of communism and autocratic government systems and other democratic government systems.

The House also passed HB1189, which exempts novice teachers who have completed a Division of Elementary and Secondary Education-approved year-long residency from the novice teacher mentoring requirement.

The House will reconvene on Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.