



Newsletter From Rep. Matthew J. Shepherd District 97

March 5, 2025

Summary for Wednesday, March 5, 2025

On Wednesday, the House passed HB1365 which removes racial and gender quotas and membership qualifications for certain boards, committees, councils, and commissions.

The House also passed HB1596 which defines a mobile work zone and allows law enforcement to double fines for traffic violations within such zones.

The House passed HB1581. This bill adds the offenses of trafficking of persons and grooming a minor for future sex trafficking to the list of offenses included in the definition of sex offense for the rights of victims in a crime.

HB1552 also passed. This bill classifies criminal attempts, solicitation, and conspiracy for specific fentanyl-related offenses as Class Y felonies.

The House also passed HB1477 and HB1559.

HB1477 allows the governing body of an open-enrollment public charter school to submit an applicant for Teacher of the Year consideration. HB1559 requires the Department of Human Services to request a waiver from the Arkansas Medicaid Program for inpatient treatment services related to substance use disorders.

The House also adopted a resolution supporting the nomination of Former Governor Mike Huckabee as United States Ambassador to Israel.

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

