



STATE OF ARKANSAS

*House of Representatives*



# NEWSLETTER FROM REP. Matthew J. Shepherd

## DISTRICT 97

February 28, 2019

## DAILY SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY 28, 2019



STATE OF ARKANSAS

*House of Representatives*

In a vote of 85-6, the House passed HB1437. This bill makes it a

Class A misdemeanor if a mandated reporter fails to notify law enforcement of a serious threat made by an individual regarding violence in or targeted at a school.

The House also passed HB1356. This bill makes it against the law for students to be shamed or stigmatized for not paying for lunch. It prohibits schools from providing a different meal or snack than other students, from requiring a wristband or hand stamp, or requiring the student to dispose of the meal. It also requires the Department of Education to implement a system of best practices in collecting for unpaid lunches.

Additional legislation passing the House on Thursday include:

HB1416-This bill removes the enrollment cap on school districts which separation may occur.

HB1491- This bill mandates DHS dissolve the wait list for the alternative community services waiver program (Developmental Disabilities Waiver) within 3 years.

HB1493-This bill amends the Arkansas Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit. It lowers the minimum threshold for the credit from \$25,000 to \$5,000 of rehabilitation expenses in non-income producing properties.

## PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND LABOR

The House Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committee advanced HB1290. This bill authorizes pharmacists to provide access to and administration of oral contraceptives.

## JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

The House Judiciary Committee advanced HB1497. This bill provides liability protection for stolen agricultural equipment or other off-road vehicles.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The House Education Committee advanced HB1485. This bill allows schools to use excess NSL (National School Lunch) funds for teacher salaries in certain circumstances.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The House Public Transportation Committee advanced HB1561 which allows the State Highway Commission to approve an autonomous vehicle pilot program.

The House will convene again on Monday at 1:30 pm.