



STATE OF ARKANSAS

House of Representatives



NEWSLETTER FROM REP. Matthew J. Shepherd DISTRICT 97

February 3, 2021

DAILY SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY 3, 2021

On Wednesday, the House passed several pieces of legislation, including the following:

- HB1212-This bill gives the Director of the Division of Workforce Services the discretion to modify employer contributions for certain unemployment insurance claims during an emergency.
- HB1068-This bill would allow for the use of telemedicine for group therapy sessions.
- HB1101-This bill amends the number of signatures required to petition a school district board of directors to meet. HB1101 states a petition must include the signatures of either 50 qualified electors in the district or 1% of the qualified electors, whichever number is greater. Currently, the law requires only 50 signatures of qualified electors.
- HB1269-This bill allows counties to pass an ordinance to allow individuals to drive golf carts on county roads.
- HB1244-This bill authorizes DFA to issue a driver's license or identification card without a photograph if the licensee has a religious objection to having his or her photo taken. This bill does not change requirements for voter identification.
- HB1322-This bill amends the timeline for embalming a dead body. Currently, the law states that a dead body not buried within 24 hours must be embalmed or refrigerated. HB1322 extends the timeline to 48

hours, aligning it with current rules regarding cremation.

- SB131-This bill amends the continuing eligibility for the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program from a letter grade of C average to a 2.5 GPA. This makes the eligibility consistent with the requirements for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship.
- SB126-This bill allows recipients of the Arkansas Governor's Distinguished Scholarship to also be eligible for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship.

The House will convene at 1 pm on Thursday.