



Family Council's **2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT**

Good Laws Passed

Good Religious Liberty Laws Passed

Act 677 / H.B. 1615 by Rep. Robin Lundstrum (R – Elm Springs) and Sen. Gary Stubblefield (R – Branch): Helps ensure that religious organizations and religious individuals are not penalized for living out their deeply held religious convictions.

Act 400 / S.B. 223 by Sen. Mark Johnson (R – Little Rock) and Rep. Alyssa Brown (R – Heber Springs): Affirms public school students' and teachers' religious liberties at school.

Act 573 / S.B. 433 by Sen. Jim Dotson (R – Bentonville) and Rep. Alyssa Brown (R – Heber Springs): Places copies of the Ten Commandments in public schools and public buildings in Arkansas.

Act 970 / S.B. 444 by Sen. Kim Hammer (R – Benton) and Rep. Lee Johnson (R – Greenwood): Strengthens Arkansas' healthcare workers' rights of conscience law and helps protect all medical professionals from having their rights of conscience violated.

Good Pro-Life & Bioethics Laws Passed

Act 387 / H.B. 1610 by Rep. Robin Lundstrum (R – Elm Springs) and Sen. Jimmy Hickey (R – Texarkana): Clarifies Arkansas' law against abortion, strengthens legal protections for doctors who treat pregnant women, closes possible loopholes in the current abortion law, and makes it clear that abortion remains illegal in Arkansas except to save the mother's life.

Act 1006 / H.B. 1202 by the Joint Budget Committee: Budgets \$2 million in grants to pregnancy help organizations that promote maternal and infant wellness and provide material support to women with unplanned pregnancies.

Act 485 / H.B. 1551 by Rep. Jimmy Gazaway (R – Paragould) and Sen. Ben Gilmore (R – Crossett): Clarifies that it is a crime to secretly give a pregnant woman abortion-inducing drugs without her knowledge or consent.

Act 915 / S.B. 450 by Sen. Breanne Davis (R – Russellville) and Rep. Kendra Moore (R – Lincoln): Makes it possible for public school students to see a recording of a high-definition ultrasound video and learn important facts about how unborn children develop in the womb.

Act 973 / S.B. 591 by Sen. Clint Penzo (R – Springdale) and Rep. Karilyn Brown (R – Sherwood): Prohibits abortions performed due to the unborn baby's race if Arkansas' pro-life laws are ever amended or struck down.

Act 859 / H.B. 1142 by Rep. Alyssa Brown (R – Heber Springs) and Sen. Jim Dotson (R – Bentonville): Promotes ethical fertility treatments such as restorative reproductive medicine in Arkansas and protects healthcare providers who have conscientious objections to unethical in vitro fertilization (IVF) and similar procedures.

Good Ballot Initiative Laws Passed

Act 153 / H.B. 1221 by Rep. David Ray (R – Maumelle) and Sen. Kim Hammer (R – Benton): Clarifies that petition signatures expire at the end of a General Election cycle.

Act 154 / H.B. 1222 by Rep. David Ray (R – Maumelle) and Sen. Kim Hammer (R – Benton): Says the Arkansas Attorney General cannot approve a ballot measure's sponsors to begin collecting petition signatures if the measure conflicts with the U.S. Constitution or federal law.

Act 218 / S.B. 207 by Sen. Kim Hammer (R – Benton) and Rep. Kendon Underwood (R – Cave Springs): Requires canvassers to inform people that petition fraud is a crime before obtaining their signatures on a petition.

Act 240 / S.B. 208 by Sen. Kim Hammer (R – Benton) and Rep. Kendon Underwood (R – Cave Springs): Requires canvassers to verify a person's identity via photo ID before obtaining the person's signature on a petition to help prevent people from fraudulently signing someone else's name.

Act 273 / S.B. 209 by Sen. Kim Hammer (R – Benton) and Rep. Kendon Underwood (R – Cave Springs): Clarifies that the signatures a canvasser collects will not count if the Secretary of State finds the canvasser has violated Arkansas' laws concerning canvassing, perjury, forgery, or fraud.

Act 274 / S.B. 210 by Sen. Kim Hammer (R – Benton) and Rep. Kendon Underwood (R – Cave Springs): Requires people to read the ballot title—which is a summary of the measure—before signing a petition.

Act 241 / S.B. 211 by Sen. Kim Hammer (R – Benton) and Rep. Kendon Underwood (R – Cave Springs): Requires petition canvassers to file an affidavit with the Secretary of State verifying the canvasser complied with the Arkansas Constitution and all laws concerning canvassing, perjury, forgery, and fraud.

Act 453 / H.B. 1574 by Rep. DeAnn Vaught (R – Horatio) and Sen. Kim Hammer (R – Benton): Requires petition canvassers for ballot measures to be Arkansas residents who actually live in the state.

Act 602 / H.B. 1713 by Rep. Ryan Rose (R – Van Buren) and Sen. Mark Johnson (R – Little Rock): Requires ballot initiative titles to be written at or below an eighth grade reading level. A ballot title is supposed to accurately summarize a measure so voters can decide if they support or oppose it.

Good Laws Passed Against Vices

Act 271 / H.B. 1452 by Rep. Robin Lundstrum (R – Elm Springs) and Sen. Tyler Dees (R – Siloam Springs): Prohibits marijuana use in public and on Arkansas' highways.

Act 934 / S.B. 533 by Sen. Tyler Dees (R – Siloam Springs) and Rep. Jimmy Gazaway (R – Paragould): Prohibits dangerous drugs like THC made from industrial hemp.

Act 827 / H.B. 1529 by Rep. Stephen Meeks (R – Greenbrier) and Sen. Clint Penzo (R – Springdale): Prohibits people from using artificial intelligence to create “deepfake” pornography of other people without their consent.

Act 977 / H.B. 1877 by Rep. Stephen Meeks (R – Greenbrier) and Sen. Joshua Bryant (R – Rogers): Prohibits computer-generated child pornography.

Good Education Laws Passed

Act 728 / S.B. 547 by Sen. Dan Sullivan (R – Jonesboro) and Rep. Stephen Meeks (R – Greenbrier): Eliminates the provision in state law that requires home schoolers to live within 25 miles of a private school in order to participate in interscholastic activities at that school.

Act 920 / S.B. 625 by Sen. Breanne Davis (R – Russellville) and Rep. Keith Brooks (R – Little Rock): Clarifies the 2023 LEARNS Act, reduces vendor fees, and places some spending restrictions on extracurricular activities, PE courses, fine arts, music, STEM, and field trips. Cutting vendor fees and capping certain costs will encourage educational providers to keep their prices down for home schoolers.

Good Privacy Laws Passed

Act 955 / S.B. 486 by Sen. Blake Johnson (R – Corning) and Rep. Mary Bentley (R – Perryville): Protects physical privacy and safety in showers, locker rooms, changing rooms, restrooms, and sleeping quarters in government buildings and jails and in shelters for victims of domestic violence. It also clarifies the meaning of “sex,” “male,” and “female” in state code.

Good Laws that Failed to Pass

Good Pro-Life / Bioethics Laws that Failed to Pass

- H.B. 1180 by Rep. Mary Bentley (R – Perryville) and Sen. Clint Penzo (R – Springdale):** Would have ensured public schools show students a high-definition ultrasound video and let students see a video like Live Action's computer-animated "Meet Baby Olivia" video about human development from conception to birth.
- H.B. 1946 by Rep. Mary Bentley (R – Perryville) and Sen. Clint Penzo (R – Springdale):** Would have ensured public schools show students a high-definition ultrasound video and a high-quality, computer animated video depicting the process of fertilization and every stage of fetal development.
- H.B. 1678 by Rep. Wayne Long (R – Bradford) and Sen. John Payton (R – Wilburn):** Would have strengthened Arkansas' Abortion-Inducing Drugs Safety Act that prevents abortion drugs from being delivered or administered illegally in Arkansas.
- H.B. 1404 by Rep. Cameron Cooper (R – Romance) and Sen. John Payton (R – Wilburn):** Would have created a tax credit for donations to pro-life pregnancy resource centers.
- H.B. 1554 by Rep. Alyssa Brown (R – Heber Springs) and Sen. Jim Dotson (R – Bentonville):** Would have required annual reporting on embryo creation, usage, and outcomes, as well as tracking maternal and neonatal health for children conceived through fertility treatments.
- H.B. 1795 by Rep. Alyssa Brown (R – Heber Springs) and Rep. Mary Bentley (R – Perryville):** Would have required fertility clinics to be licensed by the State of Arkansas and file statistical reports with the Health Department.

Good Religious Freedom Laws that Failed to Pass

- H.B. 1139 by Rep. Brit McKenzie (R – Rogers) and Sen. Joshua Bryant (R – Rogers):** Would have strengthened Arkansas' law concerning public school "released time" excusing students from school, if the students' parents request it, to receive religious instruction off-campus.
- H.B. 1162 by Rep. Matt Duffield (R – Russellville):** Would have made Good Friday an official state holiday.

Good Ballot Initiative Laws that Failed to Pass

- S.B. 212 by Sen. Kim Hammer (R – Benton) and Rep. Kendon Underwood (R – Cave Springs):** Would have given the Arkansas Secretary of State's office better authority to investigate, subpoena, and nullify fraudulent or false documents related to ballot initiatives.
- H.B. 1714 by Rep. Ryan Rose (R – Van Buren) and Sen. Kim Hammer (R – Benton):** Would have clarified the definition of a "paid canvasser" in state law.

Other Good Laws that Failed to Pass

- S.B. 49 by Sen. Justin Boyd (R – Fort Smith) and Rep. Lee Johnson (R – Greenwood):** Would have eliminated the sales tax on used cars sold for less than \$10,000.
- S.B. 82 by Sen. John Payton (R – Wilburn):** Would have eliminated the sales tax on used cars sold for less than \$10,000.
- S.B. 642 by Rep. Jim Petty (R – Van Buren) and Sen. Tony Furman (R – Benton):** Would have created the Families' Right and Responsibilities Act protecting parental rights in Arkansas.

Bad Laws Passed

- Act 28 / H.B. 1204 by Rep. Jon Eubanks (R – Paris) and Sen. Missy Irvin (R – Mountain View):** Effectively reduces what a person or company might be forced to pay when they injure an innocent person. Act 28 benefits insurance companies who might not be forced to pay as much in lawsuits. Family Council has concerns about potential, unintended consequences this law could have on families.

Act 157 / S.B. 98 by Sen. Breanne Davis (R – Russellville) and Rep. John Maddox (R – Mena): Expands alcohol delivery in Arkansas. The law also lets delivery companies obtain permits to deliver alcohol to consumers on behalf of the stores. Currently, retailers are directly responsible for ensuring all alcohol deliveries comply with state laws – including laws against delivering to minors. Act 157 shifts liability from the retailer to the delivery service. Act 157 may also reduce oversight or accountability for alcohol deliveries.

Act 596 / S.B. 564 by Sen. Scott Flippo (R – Bull Shoals) and Rep. Matt Brown (R – Conway): Raises the legal alcohol content for beer from 5% to 10% and allows malt beverages to contain up to 21% alcohol by weight. This will make stronger alcoholic drinks more widely available in Arkansas.

Bad Laws Defeated

Bad Drug Laws Defeated

H.B. 1889 by Rep. Aaron Pilkington (R – Knoxville) and Sen. Joshua Bryant (R – Rogers): Would have legalized “medical” marijuana deliveries in Arkansas. H.B. 1889 passed in the Arkansas House and Senate, but Governor Sanders vetoed this bad measure on April 16.

H.B. 1722 by Rep. Jeremiah Moore (R – Clarendon) and Sen. Gary Stubblefield (R – Branch): Would have legalized THC and other dangerous drugs made from industrial hemp law.

H.B. 1578 by Rep. Aaron Pilkington (R – Knoxville) and Sen. Joshua Bryant (R – Rogers): Would have legalized drinks containing THC made from industrial hemp.

S.B. 455 by Sen. Joshua Bryant (R – Rogers) and Rep. Justin Gonzales (R – Okolona): Would have legalized THC made from hemp if Arkansas’ laws restricting THC are ruled unconstitutional.

Bad Gambling Law Defeated

H.B. 1861 by Rep. Matt Duffield (R – Russellville) and Sen. Jamie Scott (D – North Little Rock): Would have let casinos in Arkansas conduct gambling online.

Bad Abortion & Bioethics Laws Defeated

H.B. 1880 by Rep. Ashley Hudson (D – Little Rock): Would have added sweeping health exceptions for abortion through all nine months of pregnancy and allowed abortion in cases of rape or incest or when a baby is at risk of certain fetal abnormalities.

H.B. 1011 by Rep. Andrew Collins (D – Little Rock): Would have repealed virtually all of Arkansas’ pro-life laws and legalized abortion throughout the state.

H.B. 1013 by Rep. Ashley Hudson (D – Little Rock): Would have let fertility labs in Arkansas create, freeze, store, and kill human embryos as part of unethical in vitro fertilization—or IVF—practices.

H.B. 1014 by Rep. Andrew Collins (D – Little Rock): Would have required the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program to pay for unethical IVF practices.

Bad School & Library Laws Defeated

H.B. 1020 by Rep. Andrew Collins (D – Little Rock): Would have repealed the 2023 LEARNS Act’s education freedom account program that lets students use public funds to pay for an education at a private school or at home.

H.B. 1028 by Rep. Andrew Collins (D – Little Rock): Would have repealed Arkansas’ laws that protect children from harmful sexual material in libraries.

H.B. 1031 by Rep. Denise Garner (D – Fayetteville): Would have made it possible for the Arkansas Department of Education to implement Planned Parenthood-style sex education in schools.

H.B. 1032 by Rep. Andrew Collins (D – Little Rock): Would have prevented healthcare professionals from helping people overcome unwanted same-sex attraction or gender confusion.

H.B. 1033 by Rep. Tippi McCullough (D – Little Rock): Would have created a “red flag” law in Arkansas making it easier for authorities to confiscate firearms from citizens the government deems dangerous.