

2025 General Assembly Report

Rep. Matthew Shepherd (Republican – House District 97)

Family Council 414 S. Pulaski St, Suite 2 Little Rock, AR 72201 (501) 375-7000

Act 387 / H.B. 1610 (Good Law): 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. **Rep. Shepherd Voted For Act 387**

Act 973 / S.B. 591 (Good Law): Prohibits abortions performed due to the unborn baby's race if Arkansas' pro-life laws are ever amended or struck down. **Rep. Shepherd Voted For Act 973**

Act 859 / H.B. 1142 (Good Law): 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. **Rep. Shepherd Voted For Act 859**

Act 677 / H.B. 1615 (Good Law): Helps ensure that religious organizations and religious individuals are not penalized for living out their deeply held religious convictions. **Rep. Shepherd Voted For Act 677**

Act 934 / S.B. 533 (Good Law): Prohibits dangerous drugs like THC made from industrial hemp. **Rep. Shepherd Voted For Act 934**

Act 271 / H.B. 1452 (Good Law): Prohibits marijuana use in public and on Arkansas' highways. **Rep. Shepherd Voted For Act 271**

Act 977 / H.B. 1877 (Good Law): Prohibits computer-generated child pornography. **Rep. Shepherd Voted For Act 977**

Act 827 / H.B. 1529 (Good Law): Prohibits people from using artificial intelligence to create "deepfake" pornography of other people without their consent. **Rep. Shepherd Did Not Vote On Act 827**

Act 153 / H.B. 1221 (Good Law): Clarifies that petition signatures expire at the end of a General Election cycle. **Rep. Shepherd Voted For Act 153**

Act 154 / H.B. 1222 (Good Law): 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. **Rep. Shepherd Voted For Act 154**

Act 453 / H.B. 1574 (Good Law): Requires petition canvassers for ballot measures to be Arkansas residents who actually live in the state. **Rep. Shepherd Voted For Act 453**

Act 602 / H.B. 1713 (Good Law): 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. **Rep. Shepherd Voted For Act 602**

Act 240 / S.B. 208 (Good Law): 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. **Rep. Shepherd Voted For Act 240**

Act 273 / S.B. 209 (Good Law): 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.

Rep. Shepherd Voted For Act 273

Act 274 / S.B. 210 (Good Law): Requires people to read the ballot title – which is a summary of the measure – before signing a petition. **Rep. Shepherd Voted For Act 274**

Act 241 / S.B. 211 (Good Law): 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. **Rep. Shepherd Voted For Act 241**

Act 400 / S.B. 223 (Good Law): Affirms public school students' and teachers' religious liberties at school. **Rep. Shepherd Voted For Act 400**

Act 573 / S.B. 433 (Good Law): Authorizes copies of the Ten Commandments in public schools and public buildings in Arkansas. **Rep. Shepherd Voted For Act 573**

Act 915 / S.B. 450 (Good Law): 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. **Rep. Shepherd Voted For Act 915**

Act 955 / S.B. 486 (Good Law): 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.

Rep. Shepherd Voted For Act 955

Act 970 / S.B. 444 (Good Law): Strengthens Arkansas' healthcare workers' rights of conscience law and helps protect all medical professionals from having their rights of conscience violated. **Rep. Shepherd Voted For Act 970**

Act 157 / S.B. 98 (Bad Law): 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. **Rep. Shepherd Voted For Act 157**

Act 596 / S.B. 564 (Bad Law): 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. **Rep. Shepherd Voted For Act 596**

Act 28 / H.B. 1204 (Bad Law): 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. **Rep. Shepherd Voted For Act 28**

This educational resource provides a snapshot of how lawmakers voted on legislation related to social and moral issues during the 2025 legislative session. This resource is not an endorsement of any candidate or political party. It does not measure any lawmakers' integrity, commitment to their faith, their work ethic, or their rapport with Family Council. It is only a report on how each lawmaker voted on these measures. Copyright © 2025. All Rights Reserved.