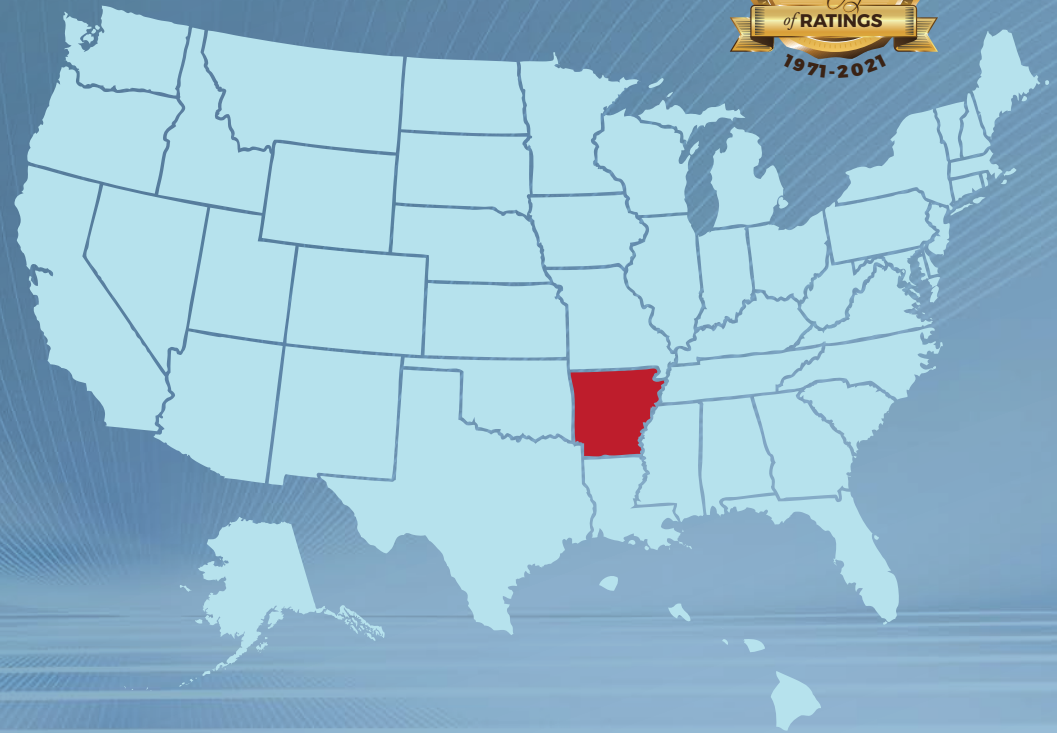




**CENTER FOR
LEGISLATIVE
ACCOUNTABILITY**
PROJECT OF CPAC FOUNDATION



RATINGS of ARKANSAS 2021



The nation's gold standard to hold nearly 8,000 lawmakers accountable for their voting records.



 ratings.conservative.org

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The American Conservative Union Foundation's Center for Legislative Accountability is proud to present our *Ratings of Arkansas* for 2021. Like our *Ratings of Congress*, ACU Foundation's *Ratings of the States* are meant to reflect how elected officials view the role of government in an individual's life. We begin with our philosophy (conservatism is the political philosophy that sovereignty resides in the person) and then apply the proper role of government (its essential role is to defend Life, Liberty and Property).

The Left has stormed our nation's corridors of power to take control over the lives of every American. Now, they have set their sights on the states, freedom's last line of defense.

President Lincoln once said, "America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves." The Left's agenda dismantles the vision of our founders when they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

We hope these Ratings will empower each and every American to hold their officials accountable and to rally behind the conservative champions who defend our freedoms in statehouses around the country.



Matt Schlapp
Chairman
American Conservative Union Foundation





ABOUT THE CENTER FOR LEGISLATIVE ACCOUNTABILITY

The Center for Legislative Accountability (CLA), an initiative of the American Conservative Union Foundation (ACUF), is the premier organization for holding lawmakers accountable. The CLA produces the longest-running conservative congressional scorecard and our state program is the only one in the nation that scores all 8,000 lawmakers in the 50 states across every policy area. In addition to ACUF's Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), the largest gathering of conservatives in the world, the CLA develops conservative policy solutions and educates everyday citizens and activists on the proper role of government. In 1971, ACUF launched its *Ratings of Congress* to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the voting records of every Member of Congress.

The Ratings quickly became considered the "gold standard" and over the following decades have been utilized by activists, voters, academics and elected officials to determine which lawmakers best adhere to conservative principles. In 2011, these Ratings were expanded into state legislatures as part of a five-state pilot program. By 2015, *Ratings of the States* grew to include all 50 states and all 99 legislative chambers.

Today, the CLA annually analyzes over 105,000 pieces of legislation to issue scores for all of America's federal and state lawmakers and presents awards to lawmakers who score 80% or better in recognition of their conservative voting records.

ACUF

Executive Committee

Matt Schlapp
Chairman

Charlie Gerow
Vice Chairman

Randy Neugebauer
Treasurer

Kimberly Bellissimo
Secretary

Dan Schneider
Executive Vice President

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Dr. M. Zuhdi Jasser

KT McFarland
Jim McLaughlin
Priscilla O'Shaughnessy
Ron Robinson
Mike Rose
Tim Ryan

Terry Schilling
Matt Smith
Thomas Winter



METHODOLOGY

The CLA's Ratings of Congress and the States illustrate how elected officials view the role of government in an individual's life. When determining a position on a particular issue, the CLA begins by defining conservatism: the political philosophy that sovereignty resides in the person. Then, we apply the founders' belief that the proper role of government is to protect Life, Liberty and Property.

In order to depict how closely a lawmaker adheres to conservative principles, the CLA selects from the full spectrum of issues relating to the economy, culture, national security and government integrity. Some key areas include taxation, spending, education, labor, licensure, regulation, environment, life, free speech, Second Amendment rights, foreign aid, defense priorities and global organizations, including the United Nations. All congressional and state analyses are conducted after the adjournment of a legislative session to ensure that no issue is neglected.

Each lawmaker is evaluated on a zero to 100 scale, with a score of 100 representing a voting record that is perfectly aligned with conservative principles. Officials who earn a score of 90% or higher are presented with the CLA's highest honor, the Award for Conservative Excellence, while those who earn a score of 80% or higher, but less than 90%, are presented with the Award for Conservative Achievement. Additionally, any lawmaker who earns a score of 10% or lower qualifies for the ACUF's Coalition of the Radical Left.

ANNUAL METRICS


ANALYZE
105,000
BILLS


SELECT
2,000
BILLS


RATE
8,000
ELECTED
OFFICIALS

To determine legislative rankings, the CLA annually evaluates over 105,000 bills that were introduced in Congress and every convening state legislature running from January 1 to December 31. Of those bills, the CLA ultimately selects roughly 2,000 pieces of legislation that best illustrate how elected officials view the role of government in an individual's life. The CLA calculates individual scores for a total of nearly 8,000 federal and state lawmakers based on over 157,000 votes cast on the 2,000 bills selected. The CLA provides a score for each legislative chamber, which is based upon the average scores of all members within that respective chamber. A legislature's overall score is calculated by averaging each state's two legislative chambers together in order to better reflect the differences in political power between the chambers. (The exception being Nebraska, the nation's only unicameral legislature comprising a single legislative chamber, on which the state's overall score is based.)



Fred McGrath, *Director*
Francis Finnegan ,
Deputy Director/Data Manager

Zoe Reese, *Operations Associate*
Larry Hart , *Senior Policy Fellow*
Bryan Axler, *Policy Fellow*



2021 WINNERS & LOSERS

90-100% AWARD FOR CONSERVATIVE EXCELLENCE

2 since last year*

SENATE

n/a

2 since last year*

HOUSE

MCCOLLUM, AUSTIN

≤ 10% COALITION OF THE RADICAL LEFT

No change since last year*

SENATE

n/a

No change since last year*

HOUSE

n/a

80-89% AWARD FOR CONSERVATIVE ACHIEVEMENT

4 since last year*

SENATE

BALLINGER, BOB	IRVIN, MISSY
CLARK, ALAN	JOHNSON, MARK
EADS, LANCE	PITSCH, MATHEW
ENGLISH, JANE	SULLIVAN, DAN
FLIPPO, SCOTT	WALLACE, DAVID
GARNER, TRENT	

24 since last year*

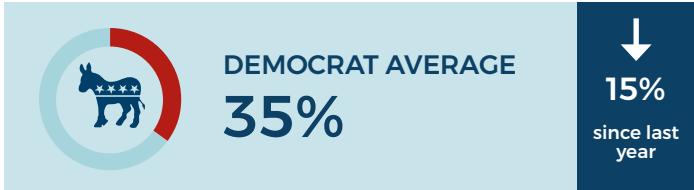
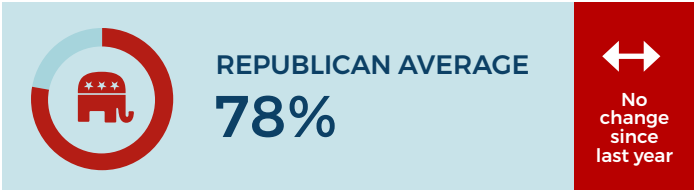
HOUSE

BARKER, SONIA	CARR, JOHN	GONZALES, JUSTIN	MCCLURE, RICK	SMITH, STU
BEATY JR., HOWARD	CAVENAUGH, FRANCES	HAAK, DELIA	MCGREW, RICHARD	SPEAKS, NELDA
BECK, RICK	CHRISTIANSEN, CRAIG	HAWKS, SPENCER	MEEKS, STEPHEN	UNDERWOOD, KENDON
BENTLEY, MARY	COLEMAN, BRUCE	HOLCOMB, MIKE	PENZO, CLINT	WARDLAW, JEFF
BERRY, MARK	COOPER, CAMERON	JEAN, LANE	PILKINGTON, AARON	WOMACK, RICHARD
BOYD, JUSTIN	COZART, BRUCE	JOHNSON, LEE	RAY, DAVID	
BRAGG, KEN	CRAWFORD, CINDY	LADYMAN, JACK	RICHMOND, MARCUS	
BREAUX, HARLAN	DOTSON, JIM	LOWERY, MARK	RYE, JOHNNY	
BROWN, KARILYN	EUBANKS, JON	LUNDSTRUM, ROBIN	SLAPE, KEITH	
BRYANT, JOSHUA	EVANS, BRIAN	LYNCH, ROGER	SMITH, BRANDT	

*Compared to number of qualifying lawmakers in the previous session
 Republicans in ALL CAPS, Democrats in initial caps, asterisk indicates Independents/Libertarians/other



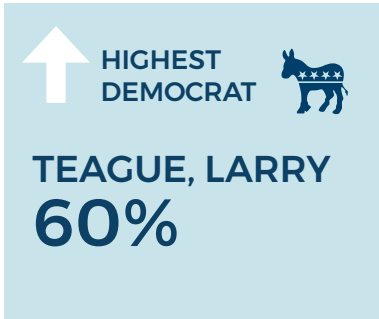
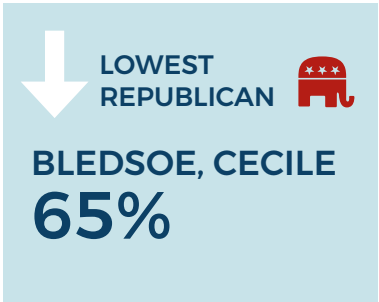
ARKANSAS SENATE STATISTICS



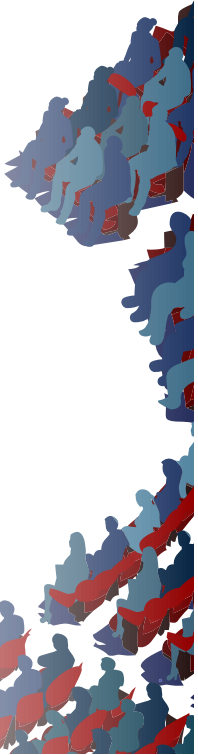
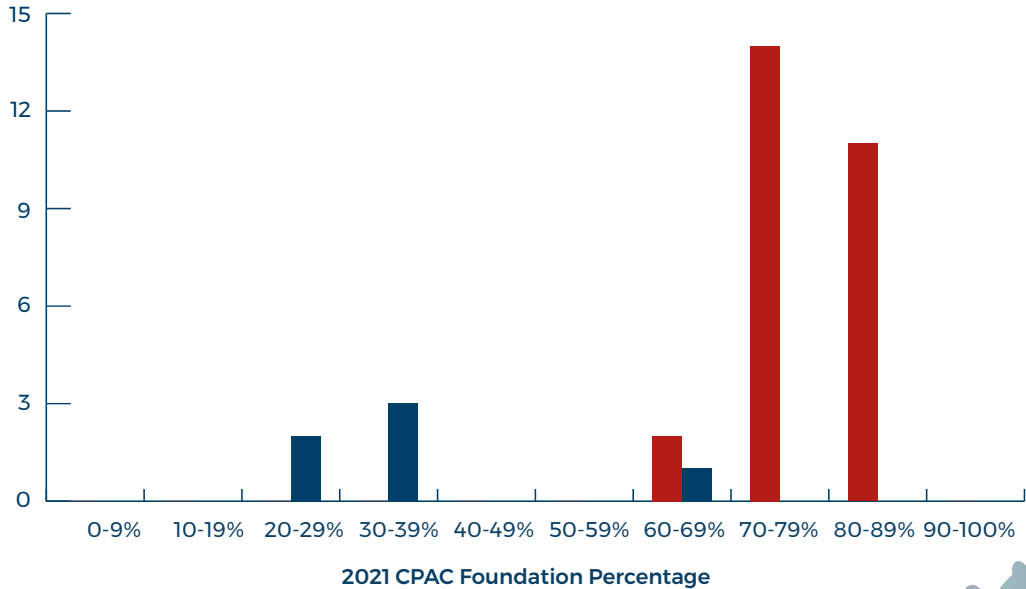
ARKANSAS SENATE CONSERVATIVE RATINGS

RED = REPUBLICANS
27 TOTAL IN SENATE

BLUE = DEMOCRATS
7 TOTAL IN SENATE



OF STATE SENATORS





ARKANSAS SENATE SCORES

ARKANSAS SENATE VOTE DETAIL

	Party	Dist.	2021 %	2020 %	LIFETIME AVG	SB 6	SJR 14	SB 24	SB 32	SB 59	SB 85	SB 137	SB 248	SB 295	SB 306	SB 336	SB 341	SB 354	SB 379	SB 389	SB 417	SB 521	SB 535	SB 590	SB 615	SB 627	SB 632	SB 680	HB 1112	HB 1198	HB 1228	HB 1256	HB 1402	HB 1426	HB 1456	HB 1487	HB 1512	HB 1589	HB 1704	HB 1706	HB 1715	HB 1746	HB 1763	HB 1767	HB 1800	HB 1881	HB 1883						
BALLINGER, BOB	R	5	83%	92%	89%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+						
BECKHAM, CHARLES	R	12	77%	n/a	77%	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+			
BLEDSON, CECILE	R	3	65%	69%	75%	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+
CALDWELL, RONALD	R	23	77%	83%	75%	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	-	+	X	X	+	-	+	+	+	X	X	+	X	-	-	+	X	+	X	-	+	+	+	+	X	-	-	+				
Chesterfield, Linda	D	30	23%	43%	26%	-	X	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	+	-	-	-	X					
CLARK, ALAN	R	13	81%	78%	79%	+	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	X	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+			
DAVIS, BREANNE	R	16	79%	81%	81%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	X	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	X		
DISMANG, JONATHAN	R	28	74%	73%	72%	+	X	+	-	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+		
EADS, LANCE	R	7	83%	72%	73%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	X	+	X	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+		
Elliott, Joyce	D	31	27%	39%	25%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	X	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	
ENGLISH, JANE	R	34	81%	76%	76%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	X
FLIPPO, SCOTT	R	17	80%	84%	82%	+	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+

+ = Member voted with ACU's position † = Legislator did not vote on enough of the selected bills and as a result did not receive a rating for the 2021 session. Two-thirds of the selected bills must be voted on to receive a score.
 - = Member voted against ACU's position R = Republican D = Democrat I = Independent
 x = Member was absent for vote

- SB 6 Protecting Life by Banning Abortion.
- SJR 14 Protecting Religious Freedom Through a State Constitutional Amendment.
- SB 24 Strengthening Self Defense Through "Stand Your Ground".
- SB 32 Expanding Competition Through the Delivery of Alcoholic Beverages.
- SB 59 Strengthening Second Amendment Rights by Prohibiting Enforcement of Draconian Federal Firearm Mandates.
- SB 85 Protecting Life by Increasing Ultrasound Requirements before Abortions.
- SB 137 Protecting Property Owners from Local Bans on Natural Gas.
- SB 248 Strengthening "Food Freedom" by Expanding Opportunities for Cottage Food Sales.
- SB 295 Strengthening Government Integrity by Increasing Verification of Eligibility for Welfare Programs.
- SB 306 Strengthening Second Amendment Rights on Public Property.
- SB 336 Expanding the Free Competition of Gold and Silver Currencies.
- SB 341 Protecting Taxpayers Through a Ban on State Employee Collective Bargaining.
- SB 354 Protecting Women's Athletics from Competition with Men.
- SB 379 Providing a Legislative Check on the Governor's Emergency Powers.
- SB 389 Strengthening Parental Rights through Sex Education Curriculum Transparency.
- SB 417 Restoring Second Amendment Rights for Individuals with Certain Non-Violent Felony Offenses.
- SB 521 Increasing Government Dependency by Further Expanding Coverages Under Medicaid.
- SB 535 Strengthening Free Speech Through Nonprofit Donor Privacy Protections.
- SB 590 Strengthening Individual Liberties by Ending Government Mask Mandates.
- SB 615 Protecting Arkansans from Government-Imposed "Vaccine Passports".
- SB 627 Prohibiting Tax Dollars from Being Spent to Provide Critical Race Theory Training to Government Employees.
- SB 632 Socializing the Cost of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure.
- SB 680 Expanding School Choice through an Educational Scholarship Tax Credit Program.
- HB 1112 Strengthening Election Integrity Through Voter-ID Requirements.
- HB 1198 Improving Access to Health Care by Easing Certain Restrictions on Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists.
- HB 1228 Strengthening Individual Liberties by Permitting Entertainment Districts in Dry Counties.
- HB 1256 Expanding Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Previous Criminal Convictions.
- HB 1402 Protecting Life by Preventing Abortion-Inducing Drugs from Being Prescribed Through Telehealth.
- HB 1426 Mandating Third-Party Food Delivery Services Enter into Contracts with Restaurants.
- HB 1456 Expanding Cronyism Through Subsidies to Private Railroad Companies.
- HB 1487 Protecting Businesses from Lawsuit Abuse Related to COVID-19.
- HB 1512 Reducing Government Dependency by Strengthening Welfare Work Requirements.
- HB 1589 Protecting Life by Further Restricting Taxpayer Funding of Abortion.
- HB 1704 Protecting Consumers from Municipal Bans on Bags and Packaging.
- HB 1706 Expanding Cronyism Through Subsidies to the Logging Industry.
- HB 1715 Strengthening Election Integrity by Requiring an Application for Mail-In Voting.
- HB 1746 Exempting Hair Stylists from the State's Draconian Cosmetology Licensing Regime.
- HB 1763 Expanding Competition by Authorizing Distillers to Self-Distribute.
- HB 1767 Advancing Innovation by Permitting Autonomous Delivery Robots.
- HB 1800 Establishing an Excessive New Roofing Contractor Registration Regime.
- HB 1881 Expanding Government Price Controls Under the 340B Drug Pricing Program.
- HB 1883 Protecting Businesses from Overreaching Local Regulations Concerning "Working Animals".



ARKANSAS SENATE VOTE DETAIL

Table with columns for Member Name, Party, District, 2021 %, 2020 %, Lifetime Avg, and 30+ bills (SB 6 to HB 1883). Rows include members like Flowers, Stephanie, Garner, Trent, Gilmore, Ben, etc.

+ = Member voted with ACU's position
- = Member voted against ACU's position
x = Member was absent for vote
† = Legislator did not vote on enough of the selected bills...
R = Republican D = Democrat I = Independent



ARKANSAS SENATE VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

- 1. SB 6 Protecting Life by Banning Abortion.** This bill, known as the Arkansas Unborn Child Protection Act, protects the lives of unborn children by banning abortion. The bill contains an exception to protect the life of the mother and is intended to serve as a basis for the U.S. Supreme Court to “reverse, cancel, overturn, and annul Roe v. Wade, Doe v. Bolton, and Planned Parenthood v. Casey.” ACU believes abortion is a human tragedy, supports restrictions on the practice and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on February 22, 2021 by a vote of 27-7 and the bill was signed into law.
- 2. SJR 14 Protecting Religious Freedom Through a State Constitutional Amendment.** This resolution proposes an amendment to the state constitution to protect religious liberties. Under the amendment, the “government may never burden a person’s freedom of religion except in the rare circumstance that the government demonstrates a compelling interest”. Additionally, government must use the “least restrictive means of furthering the compelling interest”. ACU supports strengthening First Amendment protections, supports efforts to combat abuse of power by government officials and supported this resolution. The Senate passed the resolution on April 22, 2021 by a vote of 27-4. (The measure will appear on the 2022 ballot for voter approval.)
- 3. SB 24 Strengthening Self Defense Through “Stand Your Ground”.** This bill strengthens the ability of Arkansans to defend themselves by including a “Stand Your Ground” provision within the state’s self-defense law. Under the bill, use of a firearm or other weapon is protected under the law if an individual reasonably believes deadly force is necessary to defend themselves or another individual from the imminent commission of death or a serious physical injury. The bill also removes the requirement an individual retreat before using deadly force. ACU supports strengthening the right of self-defense, supports the founders’ belief in the Second Amendment and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on January 19, 2021 by a vote of 27-7 and the bill was signed into law.
- 4. SB 32 Expanding Competition Through the Delivery of Alcoholic Beverages.** This bill expands consumer choice and competition by permitting retail liquor stores, microbrewery restaurants, and small breweries to deliver alcoholic beverages to individuals who are at least 21 years old. Deliveries may be made to private residences in the same county as the business during legal operating hours, provided the county is a wet county. However, the bill only allows employees of the business to make deliveries, and expressly prohibits deliveries by third-party delivery companies. ACU supports expanding individual liberties and eliminating unnecessary, anti-competitive regulations that restrict consumer choice, and while ACU opposes prohibiting third-party deliveries, we supported this bill as a step in the right direction. The Senate passed the bill on February 24, 2021 by a vote of 18-9 and the bill was signed into law.
- 5. SB 59 Strengthening Second Amendment Rights by Prohibiting Enforcement of Draconian Federal Firearm Mandates.** This bill, known as the Intrastate Firearms Protection Act, strengthens Second Amendment rights. Specifically, the bill declares that firearms, firearm accessories, and ammunition manufactured within the state, and that remains in the state, is not interstate commerce, and therefore, is not subject to federal regulation. Additionally, the bill prohibits any state agency or employee from knowingly enforcing any federal law or regulation passed or effective after January 1, 2021 relating to privately owned firearms, firearm accessories, or ammunition that was owned or manufactured privately in Arkansas. ACU supports the founders’ belief in the Second Amendment, opposes unnecessary gun control measures that do not improve public safety and infringe the right of law-abiding individuals to keep and bear arms and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 1, 2021 by a vote of 28-7 and the bill became law without the Governor’s signature.
- 6. SB 85 Protecting Life by Increasing Ultrasound Requirements before Abortions.** This bill, known as the Right-to-Know-and-See Act, protects the lives of unborn children by requiring an ultrasound be performed before any abortion, except in the case of an emergency. Under prior law, physicians were only required to inform the pregnant woman of the right to view the ultrasound images prior to the abortion being performed. The bill stipulates that the pregnant woman must be provided a verbal description of what the ultrasound is depicting, and the ultrasound images must be displayed so the pregnant woman may view them, along with a description of the images. ACU believes abortion is a human tragedy, supports restrictions on the practice and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 8, 2021 by a vote of 29-6 and the bill was signed into law.



-
7. **SB 137 Protecting Property Owners from Local Bans on Natural Gas.** This bill strengthens property rights by prohibiting local governments from adopting any ordinances or regulations that restrict the connection of a utility service based on the type or source of energy to be delivered to a customer. The bill is in response to local governments in California, Washington, and Massachusetts which have banned natural gas in new residential developments. ACU supports all sources of energy, does not believe the government should favor one type of energy source over another and supported the bill. The Senate passed the bill on February 8, 2021 by a vote of 34-1 and the bill was signed into law.
-
8. **SB 248 Strengthening “Food Freedom” by Expanding Opportunities for Cottage Food Sales.** This bill, also known as the Food Freedom Act, strengthens entrepreneurship by protecting the right for individuals to sell and purchase certain homemade food and drink products. Specifically, the bill exempts certain homemade food products, not including meat and poultry, from state licensure, inspection, and packaging mandates and prohibits localities from regulating the production and sale of homemade food items. The bill requires the homemade products to be labeled expressing that the product is unlicensed. ACU supports “food freedom” and expanding entrepreneurship and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 26, 2021 by a vote of 34-1 and the bill was signed into law.
-
9. **SB 295 Strengthening Government Integrity by Increasing Verification of Eligibility for Welfare Programs.** This bill helps strengthen government integrity by enacting a number of provisions designed to reduce fraud and abuse of welfare benefits. Under the bill, the Department of Human Services is required to verify monthly the eligibility of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients against lottery and gambling records, as well as other changes in circumstances that may impact eligibility quarterly. Additionally, the bill requires similar eligibility verification for Medicaid recipients, and provides that the department may not accept self-attestation without verification before enrollment in benefits. ACU supports efforts to strengthen government integrity, and supports efforts to help people live happier, healthier, more productive lives by becoming less dependent on government and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 18, 2021 by a vote of 24-6 and the bill was signed into law.
-
10. **SB 306 Strengthening Second Amendment Rights on Public Property.** This bill strengthens Second Amendment rights by ensuring individuals with a concealed carry license can carry a concealed firearm in municipally owned parks and recreation areas. The bill contains certain exceptions such as athletic events, municipal buildings, and special event areas. ACU supports the founders’ belief in the Second Amendment, opposes “gun-free zones” which threaten public safety by stripping individuals of their ability to defend themselves, and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 15, 2021 by a vote of 33-2 and the bill was signed into law.
-
11. **SB 336 Expanding the Free Competition of Gold and Silver Currencies.** This bill expands the free competition of currency by exempting gold and silver bullion (coins or bars with high precious metal content) from the state’s sales and use taxes. The exemption only applies to bullion that is intended for use as currency. ACU supports the free competition of currency, believes the Federal Reserve should not have a monopoly on our money and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 21, 2021 by a vote of 30-1 and the bill was signed into law.
-
12. **SB 341 Protecting Taxpayers Through a Ban on State Employee Collective Bargaining.** This bill helps protect taxpayers from runaway spending by largely prohibiting public-sector collective bargaining. Under the bill, the state is prohibited from entering into collective bargaining agreements (except for teachers, police and firefighters) and the bill makes public employee strikes grounds for termination. ACU supports the “right to work” without joining a labor union, supports protecting taxpayers through a complete ban on collective bargaining and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 5, 2021 by a vote of 21-6 and the bill was signed into law.
-



13. **SB 354 Protecting Women's Athletics from Competition with Men.** This bill protects the institution of women's athletics by requiring all public primary, secondary, and higher education institutions to maintain separate competition for female and male students. Under the bill, athletes participating in public school athletics are required to compete according to their biological sex at birth. As a result, biological males who identify as females (or vice versa) may not compete with individuals of a different sex, unless the competition is designated coed. Additionally, the bill prohibits governmental entities, athletic associations, and accrediting and licensing organizations from imposing any penalties on educational institutions which abide by the provisions of the bill. ACU believes all individuals should be treated with dignity and respect and have the same opportunities under the law. ACU also recognizes that there are numerous standard classifications in sports (such as age, weight, etc.) to ensure fair competition. Therefore, ACU supports ensuring fair competition among teams competing across the state and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 10, 2021 by a vote of 28-7 and the bill was signed into law.
-
14. **SB 379 Providing a Legislative Check on the Governor's Emergency Powers.** This bill helps protect individual liberties by providing greater legislative oversight of the Governor's emergency declarations. Under the bill, the Legislative Council is directed to review public health emergency orders and a framework is established where the Council and legislature may deny renewal of orders. ACU supports this check on executive branch power, believes many of the government's shutdowns in response to the COVID-19 pandemic did more harm than good, and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 4, 2021 by a vote of 27-4 and the bill was signed into law.
-
15. **SB 389 Strengthening Parental Rights through Sex Education Curriculum Transparency.** This bill strengthens parental rights by ensuring parents have the right to review human sexuality teaching materials taught in schools and to withdraw their child from sex education instruction. Specifically, the bill improves the ability of parents to gain access to teaching materials related to "sex education, sexual orientation, and gender identity" by requiring public schools to allow parents and legal guardians to inspect the materials and opt their child out of such education. Under the bill, schools are required to provide parents with written notification prior to teaching the subjects. ACU supports strengthening parental rights and increasing transparency within the education system and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 16, 2021 by a vote of 29-0 and the bill was signed into law.
-
16. **SB 417 Restoring Second Amendment Rights for Individuals with Certain Non-Violent Felony Offenses.** This bill provides a pathway for reformed individuals to have their Second Amendment rights restored. Under the bill, individuals who have been convicted of certain non-violent and business-related felonies and have completed their sentences may have their second amendment rights restored. ACU's Nolan Center for Justice is a national leader in criminal justice reform and works to cut crime, reduce taxpayer costs, protect victims, define the proper scope of government, and responsibly reduce incarceration rates. ACU supports the founders' belief in the Second Amendment and supported the bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 7, 2021 by a vote of 31-3 and the bill was signed into law.
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17. **SB 521 Increasing Government Dependency by Further Expanding Coverages Under Medicaid.** This bill increases government dependency by further expanding coverages under the Medicaid welfare system. Specifically, the bill requires Medicaid to now cover "continuous glucose monitors" in addition to the other diabetes monitoring equipment currently covered under Medicaid. ACU supports efforts to help people live happier, healthier, more productive lives, opposes efforts that expand dependence on government, which leads to intergenerational poverty. ACU opposes further expanding a program rife with fraud and waste and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 22, 2021 by a vote of 35-0 and the bill was signed into law.
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18. **SB 535 Strengthening Free Speech Through Nonprofit Donor Privacy Protections.** This bill strengthens free speech by prohibiting state agencies from compelling nonprofit organizations to disclose the names and personal information of their donors, members, volunteers, or supporters, and other similar information. Additionally, state agencies are prohibited from disclosing such information that the agency possesses. (The bill makes limited exceptions for disclosures required by law.) ACU supports free speech as protected under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, supports this measure to ensure government does not discourage free speech through donor intimidation and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 26, 2021 by a vote of 33-1 and the bill was signed into law.
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19. **SB 590 Strengthening Individual Liberties by Ending Government Mask Mandates.** This bill strengthens individual liberties by ending all COVID-19 mask mandates issued by the Governor or Department of Health. Additionally, the bill prohibits state agencies from enacting their own mask mandates, with exceptions for healthcare facilities, correctional facilities and youth facilities. The bill only applies to the government and specifically excludes private businesses, allowing businesses to make their own decisions. ACU supports this legislative check on executive branch power, supports the ability of Americans to manage their own risk related to illnesses, believes that many of government's reactions to COVID-19 have done more harm than good and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 22, 2021 by a vote of 19-9 and the bill was signed into law.
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20. **SB 615 Protecting Arkansans from Government-Imposed "Vaccine Passports".** This bill strengthens individual liberties by prohibiting any state or local government entity from requiring a vaccine passport for "any purpose," including as a condition for entry, travel, education, or services. ACU supports the ability of Americans to manage their own risk related to illnesses, believes that many of government's reactions to COVID-19 have done more harm than good and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 20, 2021 by a vote of 23-8 and the bill was signed into law.
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21. **SB 627 Prohibiting Tax Dollars from Being Spent to Provide Critical Race Theory Training to Government Employees.** This bill prohibits taxpayer funds from being used to enrich leftist groups to provide government employees "implicit bias" or critical race theory trainings. The bill applies to all state government agencies and ensures no training may be provided which places any form of blame or judgment on the basis of race, ethnicity or sex. ACU believes all government work environments should be safe, respectful and managed to ensure maximum productivity. ACU opposes enriching Leftist providers of these services, which sow division and disrupt employee work and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 22, 2021 by a vote of 20-6 and the bill later became law without the Governor's signature.
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22. **SB 632 Socializing the Cost of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure.** The bill socializes the expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure by establishing a new Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund. As a result, taxpayer funds will be doled out by the Secretary of Energy and Environment to public or private entities for costs associated with building or installing electric vehicle charging equipment. ACU supports all vehicle propulsion systems and believes the free market and private sector is the best institution to expand electrification. ACU opposes the creation of yet another mechanism to socialize vehicle costs and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 13, 2021 by a vote of 32-2 and the bill was signed into law.
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23. **SB 680 Expanding School Choice through an Educational Scholarship Tax Credit Program.** This bill improves educational outcomes by expanding school choice through a new education scholarship tax credit program. Under the bill, students whose household income is at or below 200% of the federal poverty level may receive scholarships to apply toward tuition and fees at a private school. The program is funded through contributions to scholarship-granting organizations that in return issue tax credits. ACU supports the responsible expansion of school choice, believes that education support should follow students not bureaucratic school systems and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 15, 2021 by a vote of 25-6 and the bill was signed into law.
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24. **HB 1112 Strengthening Election Integrity Through Voter-ID Requirements.** This bill strengthens election integrity by amending the state constitution to require an individual show a photo-ID when casting a ballot either in-person or absentee. The bill closes a loophole under previous law which permitted individuals to cast provisional ballots if they completed sworn statements. ACU supports efforts to strengthen election integrity and ensure that all legal ballots are counted, and that no illegal ballot is counted, which disenfranchises eligible voters, and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on February 24, 2021 by a vote of 25-9 and the bill was signed into law.
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25. **HB 1198 Improving Access to Health Care by Easing Certain Restrictions on Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists.** This bill expands patient access to health care by easing certain restrictions on certified registered nurse anesthesia (CRNAs). Under the bill, CRNAs are now permitted to provide anesthesia in consultation with physicians, dentists, and other healthcare providers who order anesthesia, rather than under the direct supervision of these care providers. Additionally, CRNAs may select and administer schedule II drugs during procedures. ACU supports reducing patient costs and improving access to health care by eliminating unnecessary and excessive government restrictions on health care providers and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 17, 2021 by a vote of 18-12 and the bill was signed into law.
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26. **HB 1228 Strengthening Individual Liberties by Permitting Entertainment Districts in Dry Counties.** This bill strengthens individual liberties by further building upon SB 492 passed in 2019, which ACU supported. Under HB 1228, cities in dry counties may authorize the creation of “entertainment districts” in which private clubs with on-premises alcohol permits may allow customers to consume alcoholic beverages within the district. ACU supports strengthening individual liberties and a free market in the alcoholic beverage industry and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 20, 2021 by a vote of 18-14 and the bill was signed into law.
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27. **HB 1256 Expanding Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Previous Criminal Convictions.** This bill is designed to expand employment opportunities for reformed individuals who were previously convicted of nonviolent criminal offenses. Under prior law, only convictions after 2013 were eligible for expungement through a petition process. This bill permits the expungement of offenses that occurred before 2013. Furthermore, the bill permits individuals who previously served time in a state correctional facility to also petition to have their conviction expunged. ACU's Nolan Center for Justice is a national leader in criminal justice reform and works to cut crime, reduce taxpayer costs, protect victims, define the proper scope of government, and responsibly reduce incarceration rates. ACU supports efforts to reduce recidivism and expand economic growth by making it easier for those with records to obtain employment and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 11, 2021 by a vote of 34-0 and the bill was signed into law.
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28. **HB 1402 Protecting Life by Preventing Abortion-Inducing Drugs from Being Prescribed Through Telehealth.** This bill helps protect the lives of the unborn by preventing abortion-inducing drugs from being prescribed through telehealth and delivered through the mail. Under the bill, a physician must conduct an in-person examination before prescribing an abortion-inducing drug. ACU believes abortion is a human tragedy, supports restrictions on the practice and efforts to provide appropriate medical information to patients and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 29, 2021 by a vote of 26-6 and the bill was signed into law.
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29. **HB 1426 Mandating Third-Party Food Delivery Services Enter into Contracts with Restaurants.** This bill interferes in the private operations of food delivery platforms (such as Grubhub, DoorDash, and Uber Eats) and restaurants who offer delivery. Under the bill, any third-party food delivery service must obtain an agreement with a restaurant before engaging in delivery. ACU recognizes this measure is largely designed to use government to provide restaurants greater leverage in their negotiations with delivery platforms, as restaurants already have the freedom to refuse to provide their products to a delivery platform. ACU further believes that any specific issue is best addressed through targeted legislation. ACU opposes invoking government interference in the free marketplace to provide more favorable outcomes to one party over another in their negotiations and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 20, 2021 by a vote of 29-4 and the bill was signed into law.
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30. **HB 1456 Expanding Cronyism Through Subsidies to Private Railroad Companies.** This bill establishes a new mechanism of cronyism through the creation of the so-called Railroad Modernization Act. Under the bill, private railroad companies may receive tax credits of up to 50% of their expenditures on maintenance and replacement of railroad track (up to \$5,000 per mile). The tax credit is transferable, and this program is expected to cost taxpayers roughly \$5 million annually. ACU supports a broadly applied tax code with the lowest possible rates for everyone. ACU opposes cronyism, opposes manipulating the tax code to benefit select industries favored by government which distorts the free market and shifts tax burdens to individuals and companies disfavored by government and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 22, 2021 by a vote of 33-0 and the bill was signed into law.
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31. **HB 1487 Protecting Businesses from Lawsuit Abuse Related to COVID-19.** This bill reduces frivolous litigation and helps fully reopen Arkansas by ensuring that no business or its employees shall be liable for exposure to the coronavirus (COVID-19) unless there was willful, reckless, or intentional misconduct. ACU supports this critical measure to help allow society to return to normal and businesses to reopen and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 31, 2021 by a vote of 34-1 and the bill was signed into law.
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32. **HB 1512 Reducing Government Dependency by Strengthening Welfare Work Requirements.** This bill helps individuals live happier, healthier and more productive lives by removing the “no-good-cause” exemption to the work requirement under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Due to previous law, work-ready childless adults could bypass work requirements through claims such as not being able to find transportation. The bill provides exemptions for those in foster care or residing in a domestic violence shelter. ACU supports efforts to help individuals live more prosperous lives by reducing government dependency, which oftentimes leads to intergenerational poverty and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 18, 2021 by a vote of 23-6 and the bill was signed into law.



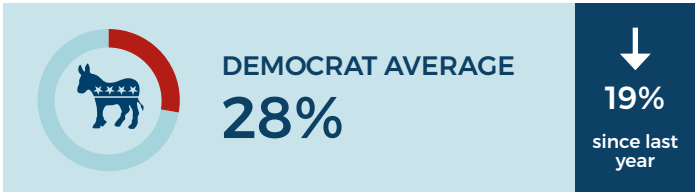
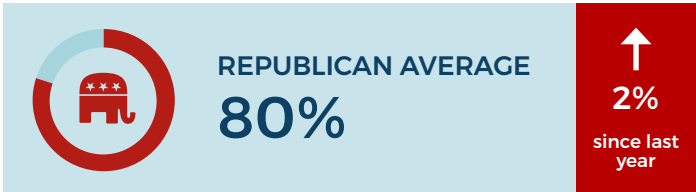
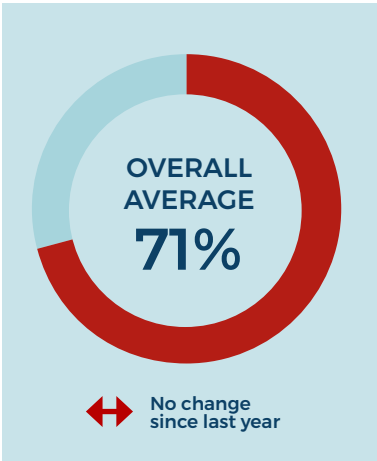
33. **HB 1589 Protecting Life by Further Restricting Taxpayer Funding of Abortion.** This bill helps protect life by ensuring taxpayer funds are not channeled to abortion providers such as Planned Parenthood. Specifically, the bill prohibits state and local governments from entering into any transactions involving taxpayer funds with an abortion provider or any affiliates. The bill contains certain exceptions for public services required by federal law, and for state hospitals and educational programs. ACU believes abortion is a human tragedy, supports restrictions on the practice and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 29, 2021 by a vote of 29-6 and the bill was signed into law.
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34. **HB 1704 Protecting Consumers from Municipal Bans on Bags and Packaging.** This bill protects consumers and businesses from local bans on “auxiliary containers” such as plastic bags. Specifically, the bill prevents localities from banning or restricting auxiliary containers or imposing any type of additional fee or tax. ACU supports protecting consumers from overreaching regulations imposed at all levels of government and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 14, 2021 by a vote of 24-6 and the bill was signed into law.
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35. **HB 1706 Expanding Cronyism Through Subsidies to the Logging Industry.** This bill establishes a new mechanism of cronyism through the creation of the Logging and Wood Fiber Transportation Job Creation Incentive Act. Under the bill, private logging and timber companies which demonstrate minimum investments of \$50 million and “create” 100 jobs are provided tax credits equal to 30% of the purchase price of qualifying equipment (up to \$5 million annually). Additionally, the bill expands government bureaucracy as the bill’s fiscal note estimates the Department of Finance and Administration will be forced to hire seven additional employees (\$465,000 per year) to audit and carry out the program. ACU supports a broadly applied tax code with the lowest possible rates for everyone. ACU opposes cronyism, opposes manipulating the tax code to benefit select industries favored by government which distorts the free market and shifts tax burdens to individuals and companies disfavored by government and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 1, 2021 by a vote of 34-0 and the bill was signed into law.
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36. **HB 1715 Strengthening Election Integrity by Requiring an Application for Mail-In Voting.** This bill strengthens election integrity by requiring an application for absentee voting ballots. Specifically, the bill prohibits election officials from mailing unsolicited absentee voting ballots or applications and makes changes to the process for receiving and counting absentee ballots. Additionally, the bill is designed to prevent ballot harvesting by making the possession of 4 absentee ballots (previously 10) a rebuttable presumption of fraud. ACUF’s Center to Protect Voters and their Voices is a leader in rebuilding the safeguards of our election systems and ensuring that every legal vote counts. ACU supports strengthening ballot integrity and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 13, 2021 by a vote of 27-8 and the bill was signed into law.
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37. **HB 1746 Exempting Hair Stylists from the State’s Draconian Cosmetology Licensing Regime.** This bill expands employment opportunities by exempting individuals working at blow dry bars from the state’s draconian cosmetology licensing regime. As a result, individuals who merely dry, style, arrange, shampoo or condition hair would not have to obtain the 1,200 hours of training required for a cosmetology license. However, individuals are still forced to register with the state and are only able to provide hair styling services under the supervision of a licensed cosmetologist. ACU supports the complete elimination of the state’s board of cosmetology, opposes the proliferation of licensing requirements (such as the one pertaining to cosmetology) which is primarily designed to restrict competition and enrich cosmetology schools and supported this bill as a step in the right direction. The Senate passed the bill on April 22, 2021 by a vote of 19-9 and the bill was signed into law.
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38. **HB 1763 Expanding Competition by Authorizing Distillers to Self-Distribute.** This bill expands consumer choice and competition in the alcoholic beverage industry by authorizing distillers to self-distribute up to 15,000 cases of their products (35,667 gallons of liquor) each year. The bill also authorizes out-of-state direct-to-consumer shipments. ACU supports expanding consumer choice and a free market in the alcoholic beverage industry and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 12, 2021 by a vote of 18-8 and the bill was signed into law.
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39. **HB 1767 Advancing Innovation by Permitting Autonomous Delivery Robots.** This bill advances innovation by permitting self-driving personal delivery devices to operate in Arkansas. Under the bill, a regulatory framework is created which permits the operation of devices which are equipped with certain equipment and meet certain safety requirements. ACU supports proactive efforts to embrace innovation and maximize the free-market benefits provided by autonomous technology, supports reducing government regulations to ensure new technologies are not overly burdened and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 21, 2021 by a vote of 26-3 and the bill was signed into law.
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40. **HB 1800 Establishing an Excessive New Roofing Contractor Registration Regime.** This bill makes it more costly to provide roofing repairs and services by establishing a "Roofing Contractor Registration Certificate." As a result, anyone serving as a roofing contractor is forced to register with the state, maintain a \$15,000 surety bond and meet qualifications established by a Residential Contractors Committee. ACU opposes the proliferation of licensing requirements which are primarily designed to restrict competition and drive-up consumer costs and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 22, 2021 by a vote of 29-3 and the bill was signed into law.
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41. **HB 1881 Expanding Government Price Controls Under the 340B Drug Pricing Program.** This bill invokes greater government interference in the pharmaceutical industry by forcing drug manufacturers to offer a larger amount of discounted drugs under the 340B drug pricing program. The federal 340B drug pricing program essentially serves as a price control which forces manufactures to provide drugs at discounted prices to safety-net hospitals and clinics. This bill expands the 340B price control to now also force manufactures to provide the discounted drugs to contract pharmacies. ACU opposes price controls and believes the best way to reduce pharmaceutical costs is through substantial reforms to the approval process at the FDA and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 27, 2021 by a vote of 35-0 and the bill was signed into law.
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42. **HB 1883 Protecting Businesses from Overreaching Local Regulations Concerning "Working Animals".** This bill helps protect businesses from overreaching local regulations concerning "working animals." As a result, the legislature would remain the sole authority to regulate services such as horse-drawn carriages and pet shop operations. ACU strongly opposes animal cruelty and believes all owners have a duty to care for and treat their animals with utmost respect. ACU supports protecting individuals and businesses from overreaching regulations and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 26, 2021 by a vote of 28-3 and the bill was signed into law.
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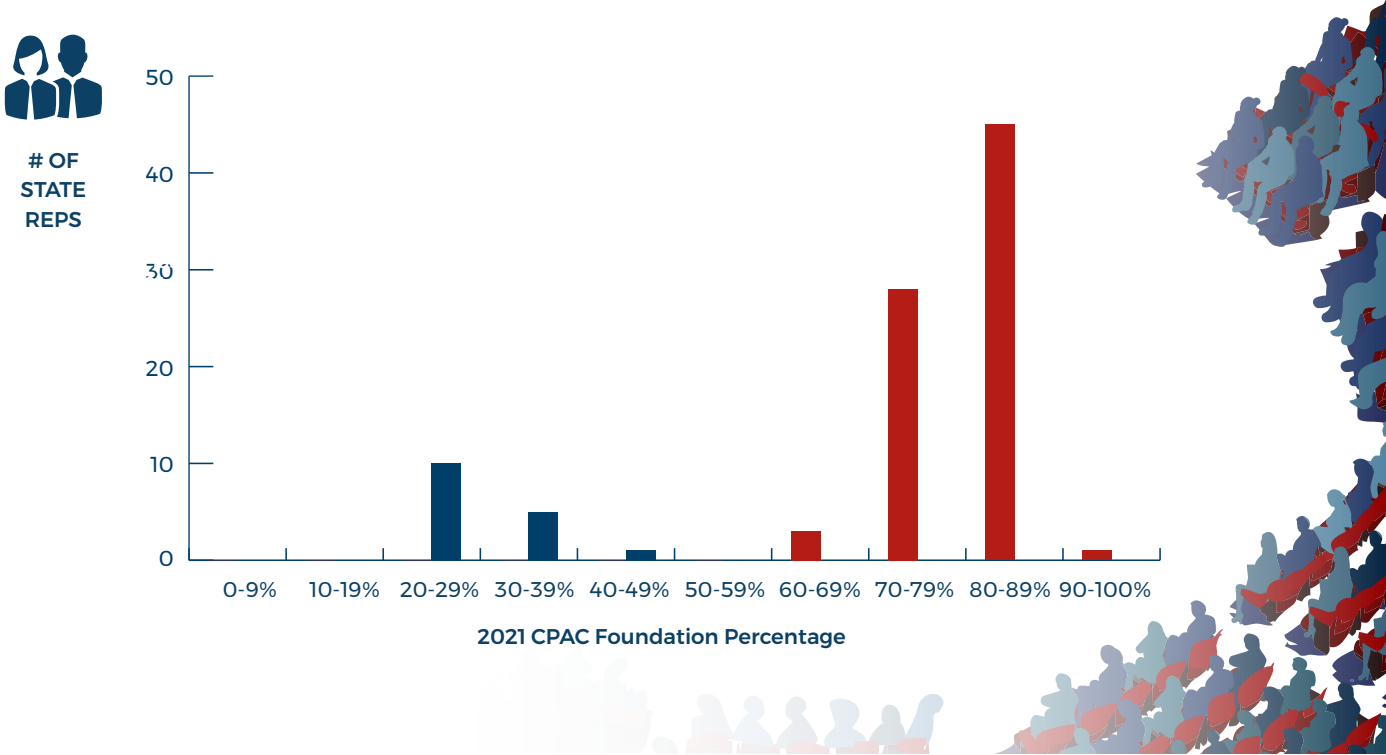
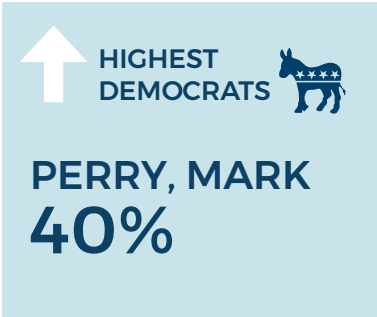
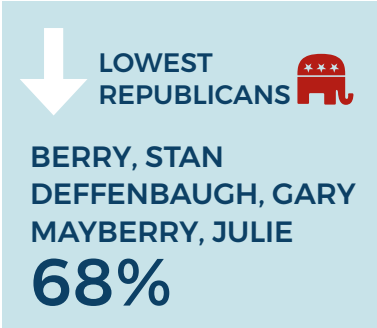
ARKANSAS HOUSE STATISTICS



ARKANSAS HOUSE CONSERVATIVE RATINGS

RED = REPUBLICANS
78 TOTAL IN HOUSE

BLUE = DEMOCRATS
22 TOTAL IN HOUSE





ARKANSAS HOUSE SCORES

ARKANSAS HOUSE VOTE DETAIL

	Party	Dist.	2021 %	2020 %	LIFETIME AVG	SB 6	SJR 14	SB 24	SB 32	SB 59	SB 85	SB 137	SB 248	SB 295	SB 306	SB 336	SB 341	SB 354	SB 379	SB 389	SB 417	SB 521	SB 535	SB 590	SB 615	SB 627	SB 632	SB 680	HB 1112	HB 1198	HB 1228	HB 1256	HB 1280	HB 1402	HB 1426	HB 1456	HB 1487	HB 1512	HB 1589	HB 1704	HB 1706	HB 1715	HB 1746	HB 1763	HB 1767	HB 1800	HB 1881	HB 1883				
Allen, Fred	D	30	n/a†	n/a	15%	-	X	-	+	-	-	X	X	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	X	X	-	-	-	X	X	X	+	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	X				
BARKER, SONIA	R	7	83%	78%	79%	+	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+			
BEATY JR., HOWARD	R	9	81%	n/a	81%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	X	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	
BECK, RICK	R	65	83%	82%	75%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
BENTLEY, MARY	R	73	80%	89%	83%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
BERRY, MARK	R	82	83%	n/a	83%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
BERRY, STAN	R	68	68%	82%	78%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	X	-	X	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
BOYD, JUSTIN	R	77	83%	70%	72%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
BRAGG, KEN	R	15	83%	78%	74%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
BREAUX, HARLAN	R	97	81%	77%	79%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
BROOKS, KEITH	R	31	79%	n/a	79%	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	X	X	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
BROWN, KARILYN	R	41	84%	78%	76%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
BRYANT, JOSHUA	R	96	85%	n/a	85%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
CARR, JOHN	R	94	85%	n/a	85%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
CAVANAUGH, FRANCES	R	60	85%	84%	80%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	

+ = Member voted with ACU's position † = Legislator did not vote on enough of the selected bills and as a result did not receive a rating for the 2021 session. Two-thirds of the selected bills must be voted on to receive a score.
 - = Member voted against ACU's position R = Republican D = Democrat I = Independent
 x = Member was absent for vote

- SB 6 Protecting Life by Banning Abortion.
- SJR 14 Protecting Religious Freedom Through a State Constitutional Amendment.
- SB 24 Strengthening Self Defense Through "Stand Your Ground".
- SB 32 Expanding Competition Through the Delivery of Alcoholic Beverages.
- SB 59 Strengthening Second Amendment Rights by Prohibiting Enforcement of Draconian Federal Firearm Mandates.
- SB 85 Protecting Life by Increasing Ultrasound Requirements before Abortions.
- SB 137 Protecting Property Owners from Local Bans on Natural Gas.
- SB 248 Strengthening "Food Freedom" by Expanding Opportunities for Cottage Food Sales.
- SB 295 Strengthening Government Integrity by Increasing Verification of Eligibility for Welfare Programs.
- SB 306 Strengthening Second Amendment Rights on Public Property.
- SB 336 Expanding the Free Competition of Gold and Silver Currencies.
- SB 341 Protecting Taxpayers Through a Ban on State Employee Collective Bargaining.
- SB 354 Protecting Women's Athletics from Competition with Men.
- SB 379 Providing a Legislative Check on the Governor's Emergency Powers.
- SB 389 Strengthening Parental Rights Through Sex Education Curriculum Transparency.
- SB 417 Restoring Second Amendment Rights for Individuals with Certain Non-Violent Felony Offenses.
- SB 521 Increasing Government Dependency by Further Expanding Coverages Under Medicaid.
- SB 535 Strengthening Free Speech Through Nonprofit Donor Privacy Protections.
- SB 590 Strengthening Individual Liberties by Ending Government Mask Mandates.
- SB 615 Protecting Arkansans from Government-Imposed "Vaccine Passports".
- SB 627 Prohibiting Tax Dollars from Being Spent to Provide Critical Race Theory Training to Government Employees.
- SB 632 Socializing the Cost of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure.
- SB 680 Expanding School Choice Through an Educational Scholarship Tax Credit Program.
- HB 1112 Strengthening Election Integrity Through Voter-ID Requirements.
- HB 1198 Improving Access to Health Care by Easing Certain Restrictions on Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists.
- HB 1228 Strengthening Individual Liberties by Permitting Entertainment Districts in Dry Counties.
- HB 1256 Expanding Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Previous Criminal Convictions.
- HB 1280 Reducing Government Transparency Through Secret Meetings for Economic Development Projects.
- HB 1402 Protecting Life by Preventing Abortion-Inducing Drugs from Being Prescribed Through Telehealth.
- HB 1426 Mandating Third-Party Food Delivery Services Enter into Contracts with Restaurants.
- HB 1456 Expanding Cronyism Through Subsidies to Private Railroad Companies.
- HB 1487 Protecting Businesses from Lawsuit Abuse Related to COVID-19.
- HB 1512 Reducing Government Dependency by Strengthening Welfare Work Requirements.
- HB 1589 Protecting Life by Further Restricting Taxpayer Funding of Abortion.
- HB 1704 Protecting Consumers from Municipal Bans on Bags and Packaging.
- HB 1706 Expanding Cronyism Through Subsidies to the Logging Industry.
- HB 1715 Strengthening Election Integrity by Requiring an Application for Mail-In Voting.
- HB 1746 Exempting Hair Stylists from the State's Draconian Cosmetology Licensing Regime.
- HB 1763 Expanding Competition by Authorizing Distillers to Self-Distribute.
- HB 1767 Advancing Innovation by Permitting Autonomous Delivery Robots.
- HB 1800 Establishing an Excessive New Roofing Contractor Registration Regime.
- HB 1881 Expanding Government Price Controls Under the 340B Drug Pricing Program.
- HB 1883 Protecting Businesses from Overreaching Local Regulations Concerning "Working Animals".



ARKANSAS HOUSE VOTE DETAIL

Table with columns: Party, Dist., 2021 %, 2020 %, LIFETIME AVG, and 35 individual bills (SB 6 to HB 1883). Rows list legislators such as Christiansen, Craig; Cloud, Joe; Clowney, Nicole; Coleman, Bruce; Collins, Andrew; Cooper, Cameron; Cozart, Bruce; Crawford, Cindy; Dalby, Carol; Davis, Marsh; Deffenbaugh, Gary; Dotson, Jim; Eaves, Les; Ennett, Denise; Eubanks, Jon; Evans, Brian; Ferguson, Deborah; Ferguson, Kenneth; Fielding, David; Fite, Charlene; Fite, Lanny; Flowers, Vivian; Fortner, Jack; Furman, Tony; Garner, Denise; Gawayay, Jimmy; Godfrey, Megan; Gonzales, Justin; Gray, Michelle; Haak, Delia; Hawks, Spencer.

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x = Member was absent for vote



ARKANSAS HOUSE VOTE DETAIL

Table with columns: Member Name, Party, Dist., 2021 %, 2020 %, LIFETIME AVG, and 35 individual bills (SB 6 to HB 1883). Rows include members like MCCOLLUM, AUSTIN; McCullough, Tippi; MCELROY, MARK; MCGREW, RICHARD; MCKENZIE, GAYLA; MCNAIR, RON; MEEKS, STEPHEN; MILLER, JOSH; MILLIGAN, JON; Murdock, Reginald; Nicks, Milton; PAYTON, JOHN; PENZO, CLINT; Perry, Mark; PILKINGTON, AARON; RAY, DAVID; Richardson, Jay; RICHMOND, MARCUS; RYE, JOHNNY; Scott, Jamie; SHEPHERD, MATTHEW; SLAPE, KEITH; SMITH, BRANDT; SMITH, STU; SPEAKS, NELDA; Springer, Joy; TOLLETT, DAVID; TOSH, DWIGHT; UNDERWOOD, KENDON; VAUGHT, DEANN.

+ = Member voted with ACU's position - = Member voted against ACU's position x = Member was absent for vote † = Legislator did not vote on enough of the selected bills and as a result did not receive a rating for the 2021 session. Two-thirds of the selected bills must be voted on to receive a score. R = Republican D = Democrat I = Independent



ARKANSAS HOUSE VOTE DETAIL

Table with columns: Member Name, Party, District, 2021 %, 2020 %, LIFETIME AVG, and 35 individual bills (SB 6 to SB 632, HB 1112 to HB 1883). Rows include WARDLAW, JEFF; WARREN, LES; WATSON, DANNY; Whitaker, David; WING, CARLTON; WOMACK, RICHARD; WOOTEN, JIM.

+ = Member voted with ACU's position - = Member voted against ACU's position x = Member was absent for vote † = Legislator did not vote on enough of the selected bills and as a result did not receive a rating for the 2021 session. Two-thirds of the selected bills must be voted on to receive a score. R = Republican D = Democrat I = Independent

- SB 6 Protecting Life by Banning Abortion.
• SJR 14 Protecting Religious Freedom Through a State Constitutional Amendment.
• SB 24 Strengthening Self Defense Through "Stand Your Ground".
• SB 32 Expanding Competition Through the Delivery of Alcoholic Beverages.
• SB 59 Strengthening Second Amendment Rights by Prohibiting Enforcement of Draconian Federal Firearm Mandates.
• SB 85 Protecting Life by Increasing Ultrasound Requirements before Abortions.
• SB 137 Protecting Property Owners from Local Bans on Natural Gas.
• SB 248 Strengthening "Food Freedom" by Expanding Opportunities for Cottage Food Sales.
• SB 295 Strengthening Government Integrity by Increasing Verification of Eligibility for Welfare Programs.
• SB 306 Strengthening Second Amendment Rights on Public Property.
• SB 336 Expanding the Free Competition of Gold and Silver Currencies.

- SB 341 Protecting Taxpayers Through a Ban on State Employee Collective Bargaining.
• SB 354 Protecting Women's Athletics from Competition with Men.
• SB 379 Providing a Legislative Check on the Governor's Emergency Powers.
• SB 389 Strengthening Parental Rights Through Sex Education Curriculum Transparency.
• SB 417 Restoring Second Amendment Rights for Individuals with Certain Non-Violent Felony Offenses.
• SB 521 Increasing Government Dependency by Further Expanding Coverages Under Medicaid.
• SB 535 Strengthening Free Speech Through Nonprofit Donor Privacy Protections.
• SB 590 Strengthening Individual Liberties by Ending Government Mask Mandates.
• SB 615 Protecting Arkansans from Government-Imposed "Vaccine Passports".
• SB 627 Prohibiting Tax Dollars from Being Spent to Provide Critical Race Theory Training to Government Employees.
• SB 632 Socializing the Cost of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure.

- SB 680 Expanding School Choice Through an Educational Scholarship Tax Credit Program.
• HB 1112 Strengthening Election Integrity Through Voter-ID Requirements.
• HB 1198 Improving Access to Health Care by Easing Certain Restrictions on Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists.
• HB 1228 Strengthening Individual Liberties by Permitting Entertainment Districts in Dry Counties.
• HB 1256 Expanding Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Previous Criminal Convictions.
• HB 1280 Reducing Government Transparency Through Secret Meetings for Economic Development Projects.
• HB 1402 Protecting Life by Preventing Abortion-Inducing Drugs from Being Prescribed Through Telehealth.
• HB 1426 Mandating Third-Party Food Delivery Services Enter into Contracts with Restaurants.
• HB 1456 Expanding Cronyism Through Subsidies to Private Railroad Companies.
• HB 1487 Protecting Businesses from Lawsuit Abuse Related to COVID-19.

- HB 1512 Reducing Government Dependency by Strengthening Welfare Work Requirements.
• HB 1589 Protecting Life by Further Restricting Taxpayer Funding of Abortion.
• HB 1704 Protecting Consumers from Municipal Bans on Bags and Packaging.
• HB 1706 Expanding Cronyism Through Subsidies to the Logging Industry.
• HB 1715 Strengthening Election Integrity by Requiring an Application for Mail-In Voting.
• HB 1746 Exempting Hair Stylists from the State's Draconian Cosmetology Licensing Regime.
• HB 1763 Expanding Competition by Authorizing Distillers to Self-Distribute.
• HB 1767 Advancing Innovation by Permitting Autonomous Delivery Robots.
• HB 1800 Establishing an Excessive New Roofing Contractor Registration Regime.
• HB 1881 Expanding Government Price Controls Under the 340B Drug Pricing Program.
• HB 1883 Protecting Businesses from Overreaching Local Regulations Concerning "Working Animals".



ARKANSAS HOUSE VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

1. **SB 6 Protecting Life by Banning Abortion.** This bill, known as the Arkansas Unborn Child Protection Act, protects the lives of unborn children by banning abortion. The bill contains an exception to protect the life of the mother and is intended to serve as a basis for the U.S. Supreme Court to “reverse, cancel, overturn, and annul Roe v. Wade, Doe v. Bolton, and Planned Parenthood v. Casey.” ACU believes abortion is a human tragedy, supports restrictions on the practice and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on March 3, 2021 by a vote of 76-19 and the bill was signed into law.

2. **SJR 14 Protecting Religious Freedom Through a State Constitutional Amendment.** This resolution proposes an amendment to the state constitution to protect religious liberties. Under the amendment, the “government may never burden a person’s freedom of religion except in the rare circumstance that the government demonstrates a compelling interest.” Additionally, government must use the “least restrictive means of furthering the compelling interest.” ACU supports strengthening First Amendment protections, supports efforts to combat abuse of power by government officials and supported this resolution. The House passed the resolution on April 27, 2021 by a vote of 75-19. (The measure will appear on the 2022 ballot for voter approval.)

3. **SB 24 Strengthening Self Defense Through “Stand Your Ground”.** This bill strengthens the ability of Arkansans to defend themselves by including a “Stand Your Ground” provision within the state’s self-defense law. Under the bill, use of a firearm or other weapon is protected under the law if an individual reasonably believes deadly force is necessary to defend themselves or another individual from the imminent commission of death or a serious physical injury. The bill also removes the requirement an individual retreat before using deadly force. ACU supports strengthening the right of self-defense, supports the founders’ belief in the Second Amendment and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on February 24, 2021 by a vote of 72-23 and the bill was signed into law.

4. **SB 32 Expanding Competition Through the Delivery of Alcoholic Beverages.** This bill expands consumer choice and competition by permitting retail liquor stores, microbrewery restaurants, and small breweries to deliver alcoholic beverages to individuals who are at least 21 years old. Deliveries may be made to private residences in the same county as the business during legal operating hours, provided the county is a wet county. However, the bill only allows employees of the business to make deliveries, and expressly prohibits deliveries by third-party delivery companies. ACU supports expanding individual liberties and eliminating unnecessary, anti-competitive regulations that restrict consumer choice, and while ACU opposes prohibiting third-party deliveries, we supported this bill as a step in the right direction. The House passed the bill on February 10, 2021 by a vote of 67-21 and the bill was signed into law.

5. **SB 59 Strengthening Second Amendment Rights by Prohibiting Enforcement of Draconian Federal Firearm Mandates.** This bill, known as the Intrastate Firearms Protection Act, strengthens Second Amendment rights. Specifically, the bill declares that firearms, firearm accessories, and ammunition manufactured within the state, and that remains in the state, is not interstate commerce, and therefore, is not subject to federal regulation. Additionally, the bill prohibits any state agency or employee from knowingly enforcing any federal law or regulation passed or effective after January 1, 2021 relating to privately owned firearms, firearm accessories, or ammunition that was owned or manufactured privately in Arkansas. ACU supports the founders’ belief in the Second Amendment, opposes unnecessary gun control measures that do not improve public safety and infringe the right of law-abiding individuals to keep and bear arms and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on April 15, 2021 by a vote of 74-18 and the bill became law without the Governor’s signature.

6. **SB 85 Protecting Life by Increasing Ultrasound Requirements before Abortions.** This bill, known as the Right-to-Know-and-See Act, protects the lives of unborn children by requiring an ultrasound be performed before any abortion, except in the case of an emergency. Under prior law, physicians were only required to inform the pregnant woman of the right to view the ultrasound images prior to the abortion being performed. The bill stipulates that the pregnant woman must be provided a verbal description of what the ultrasound is depicting, and the ultrasound images must be displayed so the pregnant woman may view them, along with a description of the images. ACU believes abortion is a human tragedy, supports restrictions on the practice and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on March 22, 2021 by a vote of 74-14 and the bill was signed into law.



7. **SB 137 Protecting Property Owners from Local Bans on Natural Gas.** This bill strengthens property rights by prohibiting local governments from adopting any ordinances or regulations that restrict the connection of a utility service based on the type or source of energy to be delivered to a customer. The bill is in response to local governments in California, Washington, and Massachusetts which have banned natural gas in new residential developments. ACU supports all sources of energy, does not believe the government should favor one type of energy source over another and supported the bill. The House passed the bill on March 4, 2021 by a vote of 76-11 and the bill was signed into law.

 8. **SB 248 Strengthening "Food Freedom" by Expanding Opportunities for Cottage Food Sales.** This bill, also known as the Food Freedom Act, strengthens entrepreneurship by protecting the right for individuals to sell and purchase certain homemade food and drink products. Specifically, the bill exempts certain homemade food products, not including meat and poultry, from state licensure, inspection, and packaging mandates and prohibits localities from regulating the production and sale of homemade food items. The bill requires the homemade products to be labeled expressing that the product is unlicensed. ACU supports "food freedom" and expanding entrepreneurship and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on April 21, 2021 by a vote of 87-0 and the bill was signed into law.

 9. **SB 295 Strengthening Government Integrity by Increasing Verification of Eligibility for Welfare Programs.** This bill helps strengthen government integrity by enacting a number of provisions designed to reduce fraud and abuse of welfare benefits. Under the bill, the Department of Human Services is required to verify monthly the eligibility of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients against lottery and gambling records, as well as other changes in circumstances that may impact eligibility quarterly. Additionally, the bill requires similar eligibility verification for Medicaid recipients, and provides that the department may not accept self-attestation without verification before enrollment in benefits. ACU supports efforts to strengthen government integrity, and supports efforts to help people live happier, healthier, more productive lives by becoming less dependent on government and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on April 15, 2021 by a vote of 76-17 and the bill was signed into law.

 10. **SB 306 Strengthening Second Amendment Rights on Public Property.** This bill strengthens Second Amendment rights by ensuring individuals with a concealed carry license can carry a concealed firearm in municipally owned parks and recreation areas. The bill contains certain exceptions such as athletic events, municipal buildings, and special event areas. ACU supports the founders' belief in the Second Amendment, opposes "gun-free zones" which threaten public safety by stripping individuals of their ability to defend themselves and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on April 6, 2021 by a vote of 80-9 and the bill was signed into law.

 11. **SB 336 Expanding the Free Competition of Gold and Silver Currencies.** This bill expands the free competition of currency by exempting gold and silver bullion (coins or bars with high precious metal content) from the state's sales and use taxes. The exemption only applies to bullion that is intended for use as currency. ACU supports the free competition of currency, believes the Federal Reserve should not have a monopoly on our money and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on April 27, 2021 by a vote of 93-0 and the bill was signed into law.

 12. **SB 341 Protecting Taxpayers Through a Ban on State Employee Collective Bargaining.** This bill helps protect taxpayers from runaway spending by largely prohibiting public-sector collective bargaining. Under the bill, the state is prohibited from entering into collective bargaining agreements (except for teachers, police and firefighters) and the bill makes public employee strikes grounds for termination. ACU supports the "right to work" without joining a labor union, supports protecting taxpayers through a complete ban on collective bargaining and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on March 22, 2021 by a vote of 62-22 and the bill was signed into law.
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13. **SB 354 Protecting Women's Athletics from Competition with Men.** This bill protects the institution of women's athletics by requiring all public primary, secondary, and higher education institutions to maintain separate competition for female and male students. Under the bill, athletes participating in public school athletics are required to compete according to their biological sex at birth. As a result, biological males who identify as females (or vice versa) may not compete with individuals of a different sex, unless the competition is designated coed. Additionally, the bill prohibits governmental entities, athletic associations, and accrediting and licensing organizations from imposing any penalties on educational institutions which abide by the provisions of the bill. ACU believes all individuals should be treated with dignity and respect and have the same opportunities under the law. ACU also recognizes that there are numerous standard classifications in sports (such as age, weight, etc.) to ensure fair competition. Therefore, ACU supports ensuring fair competition among teams competing across the state and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on March 22, 2021 by a vote of 75-18 and the bill was signed into law.
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14. **SB 379 Providing a Legislative Check on the Governor's Emergency Powers.** This bill helps protect individual liberties by providing greater legislative oversight of the Governor's emergency declarations. Under the bill, the Legislative Council is directed to review public health emergency orders and a framework is established where the Council and legislature may deny renewal of orders. ACU supports this check on executive branch power, believes many of the government's shutdowns in response to the COVID-19 pandemic did more harm than good, and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on March 15, 2021 by a vote of 78-16 and the bill was signed into law.
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15. **SB 389 Strengthening Parental Rights Through Sex Education Curriculum Transparency.** This bill strengthens parental rights by ensuring parents have the right to review human sexuality teaching materials taught in schools and to withdraw their child from sex education instruction. Specifically, the bill improves the ability of parents to gain access to teaching materials related to "sex education, sexual orientation, and gender identity" by requiring public schools to allow parents and legal guardians to inspect the materials and opt their child out of such education. Under the bill, schools are required to provide parents with written notification prior to teaching the subjects. ACU supports strengthening parental rights and increasing transparency within the education system and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on March 31, 2021 by a vote of 72-18 and the bill was signed into law.
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16. **SB 417 Restoring Second Amendment Rights for Individuals with Certain Non-Violent Felony Offenses.** This bill provides a pathway for reformed individuals to have their Second Amendment rights restored. Under the bill, individuals who have been convicted of certain non-violent and business-related felonies and have completed their sentences may have their second amendment rights restored. ACU's Nolan Center for Justice is a national leader in criminal justice reform and works to cut crime, reduce taxpayer costs, protect victims, define the proper scope of government, and responsibly reduce incarceration rates. ACU supports the founders' belief in the Second Amendment and supported the bill. The House passed the bill on April 6, 2021 by a vote of 87-1 and the bill was signed into law.
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17. **SB 521 Increasing Government Dependency by Further Expanding Coverages Under Medicaid.** This bill increases government dependency by further expanding coverages under the Medicaid welfare system. Specifically, the bill requires Medicaid to now cover "continuous glucose monitors" in addition to the other diabetes monitoring equipment currently covered under Medicaid. ACU supports efforts to help people live happier, healthier, more productive lives, opposes efforts that expand dependence on government, which leads to intergenerational poverty. ACU opposes further expanding a program rife with fraud and waste and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on April 6, 2021 by a vote of 91-0 and the bill was signed into law.
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18. **SB 535 Strengthening Free Speech Through Nonprofit Donor Privacy Protections.** This bill strengthens free speech by prohibiting state agencies from compelling nonprofit organizations to disclose the names and personal information of their donors, members, volunteers, or supporters, and other similar information. Additionally, state agencies are prohibited from disclosing such information that the agency possesses. (The bill makes limited exceptions for disclosures required by law.) ACU supports free speech as protected under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, supports this measure to ensure government does not discourage free speech through donor intimidation and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on April 20, 2021 by a vote of 74-12 and the bill was signed into law.
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19. **SB 590 Strengthening Individual Liberties by Ending Government Mask Mandates.** This bill strengthens individual liberties by ending all COVID-19 mask mandates issued by the Governor or Department of Health. Additionally, the bill prohibits state agencies from enacting their own mask mandates, with exceptions for healthcare facilities, correctional facilities and youth facilities. The bill only applies to the government and specifically excludes private businesses, allowing businesses to make their own decisions. ACU supports this legislative check on executive branch power, supports the ability of Americans to manage their own risk related to illnesses, believes that many of government's reactions to COVID-19 have done more harm than good and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on April 20, 2021 by a vote of 69-20 and the bill was signed into law.
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20. **SB 615 Protecting Arkansans from Government-Imposed "Vaccine Passports".** This bill strengthens individual liberties by prohibiting any state or local government entity from requiring a vaccine passport for "any purpose," including as a condition for entry, travel, education, or services. ACU supports the ability of Americans to manage their own risk related to illnesses, believes that many of government's reactions to COVID-19 have done more harm than good and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on April 26, 2021 by a vote of 76-12 and the bill was signed into law.
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21. **SB 627 Prohibiting Tax Dollars from Being Spent to Provide Critical Race Theory Training to Government Employees.** This bill prohibits taxpayer funds from being used to enrich leftist groups to provide government employees "implicit bias" or critical race theory trainings. The bill applies to all state government agencies and ensures no training may be provided which places any form of blame or judgment on the basis of race, ethnicity or sex. ACU believes all government work environments should be safe, respectful and managed to ensure maximum productivity. ACU opposes enriching Leftist providers of these services, which sow division and disrupt employee work and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on April 27, 2021 by a vote of 72-19 and the bill became law without the Governor's signature.
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22. **SB 632 Socializing the Cost of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure.** The bill socializes the expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure by establishing a new Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund. As a result, taxpayer funds will be doled out by the Secretary of Energy and Environment to public or private entities for costs associated with building or installing electric vehicle charging equipment. ACU supports all vehicle propulsion systems and believes the free market and private sector is the best institution to expand electrification. ACU opposes the creation of yet another mechanism to socialize vehicle costs and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on April 15, 2021 by a vote of 73-13 and the bill was signed into law.
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23. **SB 680 Expanding School Choice Through an Educational Scholarship Tax Credit Program.** This bill improves educational outcomes by expanding school choice through a new education scholarship tax credit program. Under the bill, students whose household income is at or below 200% of the federal poverty level may receive scholarships to apply toward tuition and fees at a private school. The program is funded through contributions to scholarship-granting organizations that in return issue tax credits. ACU supports the responsible expansion of school choice, believes that education support should follow students not bureaucratic school systems and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on April 21, 2021 by a vote of 52-40 and the bill was signed into law.
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24. **HB 1112 Strengthening Election Integrity Through Voter-ID Requirements.** This bill strengthens election integrity by amending the state constitution to require an individual show a photo-ID when casting a ballot either in-person or absentee. The bill closes a loophole under previous law which permitted individuals to cast provisional ballots if they completed sworn statements. ACU supports efforts to strengthen election integrity and ensure that all legal ballots are counted, and that no illegal ballot is counted, which disenfranchises eligible voters, and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on February 2, 2021 by a vote of 75-20 and the bill was signed into law.
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25. **HB 1198 Improving Access to Health Care by Easing Certain Restrictions on Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists.** This bill expands patient access to health care by easing certain restrictions on certified registered nurse anesthesia (CRNAs). Under the bill, CRNAs are now permitted to provide anesthesia in consultation with physicians, dentists, and other healthcare providers who order anesthesia, rather than under the direct supervision of these care providers. Additionally, CRNAs may select and administer schedule II drugs during procedures. ACU supports reducing patient costs and improving access to health care by eliminating unnecessary and excessive government restrictions on health care providers and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on March 9, 2021 by a vote of 55-31 and the bill was signed into law.
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26. **HB 1228 Strengthening Individual Liberties by Permitting Entertainment Districts in Dry Counties.** This bill strengthens individual liberties by further building upon SB 492 passed in 2019, which ACU supported. Under HB 1228, cities in dry counties may authorize the creation of “entertainment districts” in which private clubs with on-premises alcohol permits may allow customers to consume alcoholic beverages within the district. ACU supports strengthening individual liberties and a free market in the alcoholic beverage industry and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on February 4, 2021 by a vote of 54-21 and the bill was signed into law.
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27. **HB 1256 Expanding Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Previous Criminal Convictions.** This bill is designed to expand employment opportunities for reformed individuals who were previously convicted of nonviolent criminal offenses. Under prior law, only convictions after 2013 were eligible for expungement through a petition process. This bill permits the expungement of offenses that occurred before 2013. Furthermore, the bill permits individuals who previously served time in a state correctional facility to also petition to have their conviction expunged. ACUF's Nolan Center for Justice is a national leader in criminal justice reform and works to cut crime, reduce taxpayer costs, protect victims, define the proper scope of government, and responsibly reduce incarceration rates. ACU supports efforts to reduce recidivism and expand economic growth by making it easier for those with records to obtain employment and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on March 3, 2021 by a vote of 92-3 and the bill was signed into law.
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28. **HB 1280 Reducing Government Transparency Through Secret Meetings for Economic Development Projects.** This bill reduces government transparency and promotes cronyism by allowing economic development deals to be conducted in secret. Specifically, the bill exempts “executive sessions” from the state’s freedom of information act thus allowing local governments to negotiate and provide special interest tax breaks and subsidies in secret. ACU opposes weakening government integrity and expanding cronyism by making government less accountable to the people and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on April 5, 2021 by a vote of 54-22. (The bill failed to advance in the Senate.)
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29. **HB 1402 Protecting Life by Preventing Abortion-Inducing Drugs from Being Prescribed Through Telehealth.** This bill helps protect the lives of the unborn by preventing abortion-inducing drugs from being prescribed through telehealth and delivered through the mail. Under the bill, a physician must conduct an in-person examination before prescribing an abortion-inducing drug. ACU believes abortion is a human tragedy, supports restrictions on the practice and efforts to provide appropriate medical information to patients and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on March 16, 2021 by a vote of 77-12 and the bill was signed into law.
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30. **HB 1426 Mandating Third-Party Food Delivery Services Enter into Contracts with Restaurants.** This bill interferes in the private operations of food delivery platforms (such as Grubhub, DoorDash, and Uber Eats) and restaurants who offer delivery. Under the bill, any third-party food delivery service must obtain an agreement with a restaurant before engaging in delivery. ACU recognizes this measure is largely designed to use government to provide restaurants greater leverage in their negotiations with delivery platforms, as restaurants already have the freedom to refuse to provide their products to a delivery platform. ACU further believes that any specific issue is best addressed through targeted legislation. ACU opposes invoking government interference in the free marketplace to provide more favorable outcomes to one party over another in their negotiations and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on February 23, 2021 by a vote of 94-0 and the bill was signed into law.
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31. **HB 1456 Expanding Cronyism Through Subsidies to Private Railroad Companies.** This bill establishes a new mechanism of cronyism through the creation of the so-called Railroad Modernization Act. Under the bill, private railroad companies may receive tax credits of up to 50% of their expenditures on maintenance and replacement of railroad track (up to \$5,000 per mile). The tax credit is transferable, and this program is expected to cost taxpayers roughly \$5 million annually. ACU supports a broadly applied tax code with the lowest possible rates for everyone. ACU opposes cronyism, opposes manipulating the tax code to benefit select industries favored by government which distorts the free market and shifts tax burdens to individuals and companies disfavored by government and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on April 19, 2021 by a vote of 94-0 and the bill was signed into law.
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32. **HB 1487 Protecting Businesses from Lawsuit Abuse Related to COVID-19.** This bill reduces frivolous litigation and helps fully reopen Arkansas by ensuring that no business or its employees shall be liable for exposure to the coronavirus (COVID-19) unless there was willful, reckless, or intentional misconduct. ACU supports this critical measure to help allow society to return to normal and businesses to reopen and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on March 15, 2021 by a vote of 79-11 and the bill was signed into law.
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- 33. HB 1512 Reducing Government Dependency by Strengthening Welfare Work Requirements.** This bill helps individuals live happier, healthier and more productive lives by removing the “no-good-cause” exemption to the work requirement under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Due to previous law, work-ready childless adults could bypass work requirements through claims such as not being able to find transportation. The bill provides exemptions for those in foster care or residing in a domestic violence shelter. ACU supports efforts to help individuals live more prosperous lives by reducing government dependency, which oftentimes leads to intergenerational poverty and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on March 9, 2021 by a vote of 71-23 and the bill was signed into law.
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- 34. HB 1589 Protecting Life by Further Restricting Taxpayer Funding of Abortion.** This bill helps protect life by ensuring taxpayer funds are not channeled to abortion providers such as Planned Parenthood. Specifically, the bill prohibits state and local governments from entering into any transactions involving taxpayer funds with an abortion provider or any affiliates. The bill contains certain exceptions for public services required by federal law, and for state hospitals and educational programs. ACU believes abortion is a human tragedy, supports restrictions on the practice and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on March 15, 2021 by a vote of 74-19 and the bill was signed into law.
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- 35. HB 1704 Protecting Consumers from Municipal Bans on Bags and Packaging.** This bill protects consumers and businesses from local bans on “auxiliary containers” such as plastic bags. Specifically, the bill prevents localities from banning or restricting auxiliary containers or imposing any type of additional fee or tax. ACU supports protecting consumers from overreaching regulations imposed at all levels of government and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on April 7, 2021 by a vote of 69-15 and the bill was signed into law.
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- 36. HB 1706 Expanding Cronyism Through Subsidies to the Logging Industry.** This bill establishes a new mechanism of cronyism through the creation of the Logging and Wood Fiber Transportation Job Creation Incentive Act. Under the bill, private logging and timber companies which demonstrate minimum investments of \$50 million and “create” 100 jobs are provided tax credits equal to 30% of the purchase price of qualifying equipment (up to \$5 million annually). Additionally, the bill expands government bureaucracy as the bill’s fiscal note estimates the Department of Finance and Administration will be forced to hire seven additional employees (\$465,000 per year) to audit and carry out the program. ACU supports a broadly applied tax code with the lowest possible rates for everyone. ACU opposes cronyism, opposes manipulating the tax code to benefit select industries favored by government which distorts the free market and shifts tax burdens to individuals and companies disfavored by government and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on March 29, 2021 by a vote of 91-1 and the bill was signed into law.
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- 37. HB 1715 Strengthening Election Integrity by Requiring an Application for Mail-In Voting.** This bill strengthens election integrity by requiring an application for absentee voting ballots. Specifically, the bill prohibits election officials from mailing unsolicited absentee voting ballots or applications and makes changes to the process for receiving and counting absentee ballots. Additionally, the bill is designed to prevent ballot harvesting by making the possession of 4 absentee ballots (previously 10) a rebuttable presumption of fraud. ACU’s Center to Protect Voters and their Voices is a leader in rebuilding the safeguards of our election systems and ensuring that every legal vote counts. ACU supports strengthening ballot integrity and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on April 1, 2021 by a vote of 74-22 and the bill was signed into law.
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- 38. HB 1746 Exempting Hair Stylists from the State’s Draconian Cosmetology Licensing Regime.** This bill expands employment opportunities by exempting individuals working at blow dry bars from the state’s draconian cosmetology licensing regime. As a result, individuals who merely dry, style, arrange, shampoo or condition hair would not have to obtain the 1,200 hours of training required for a cosmetology license. However, individuals are still forced to register with the state and are only able to provide hair styling services under the supervision of a licensed cosmetologist. ACU supports the complete elimination of the state’s board of cosmetology, opposes the proliferation of licensing requirements (such as the one pertaining to cosmetology) which is primarily designed to restrict competition and enrich cosmetology schools and supported this bill as a step in the right direction. The House passed the bill on April 19, 2021 by a vote of 71-12 and the bill was signed into law.
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39. **HB 1763 Expanding Competition by Authorizing Distillers to Self-Distribute.** This bill expands consumer choice and competition in the alcoholic beverage industry by authorizing distillers to self-distribute up to 15,000 cases of their products (35,667 gallons of liquor) each year. The bill also authorizes out-of-state direct-to-consumer shipments. ACU supports expanding consumer choice and a free market in the alcoholic beverage industry and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on April 5, 2021 by a vote of 70-12 and the bill was signed into law.
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40. **HB 1767 Advancing Innovation by Permitting Autonomous Delivery Robots.** This bill advances innovation by permitting self-driving personal delivery devices to operate in Arkansas. Under the bill, a regulatory framework is created which permits the operation of devices which are equipped with certain equipment and meet certain safety requirements. ACU supports proactive efforts to embrace innovation and maximize the free-market benefits provided by autonomous technology, supports reducing government regulations to ensure new technologies are not overly burdened and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on April 14, 2021 by a vote of 89-1 and the bill was signed into law.
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41. **HB 1800 Establishing an Excessive New Roofing Contractor Registration Regime.** This bill makes it more costly to provide roofing repairs and services by establishing a "Roofing Contractor Registration Certificate." As a result, anyone serving as a roofing contractor is forced to register with the state, maintain a \$15,000 surety bond and meet qualifications established by a Residential Contractors Committee. ACU opposes the proliferation of licensing requirements which are primarily designed to restrict competition and drive-up consumer costs and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on April 27, 2021 by a vote of 69-14 and the bill was signed into law.
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42. **HB 1881 Expanding Government Price Controls Under the 340B Drug Pricing Program.** This bill invokes greater government interference in the pharmaceutical industry by forcing drug manufacturers to offer a larger amount of discounted drugs under the 340B drug pricing program. The federal 340B drug pricing program essentially serves as a price control which forces manufactures to provide drugs at discounted prices to safety-net hospitals and clinics. This bill expands the 340B price control to now also force manufactures to provide the discounted drugs to contract pharmacies. ACU opposes price controls and believes the best way to reduce pharmaceutical costs is through substantial reforms to the approval process at the FDA and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on April 20, 2021 by a vote of 65-14 and the bill was signed into law.
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43. **HB 1883 Protecting Businesses from Overreaching Local Regulations Concerning "Working Animals".** This bill helps protect businesses from overreaching local regulations concerning "working animals." As a result, the legislature would remain the sole authority to regulate services such as horse-drawn carriages and pet shop operations. ACU strongly opposes animal cruelty and believes all owners have a duty to care for and treat their animals with utmost respect. ACU supports protecting individuals and businesses from overreaching regulations and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on April 19, 2021 by a vote of 89-0 and the bill was signed into law.
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