

Following the announcement of a bill to cut taxes for Arkansas's top earners, Democrats in the state legislature say they want more analysis of the bill's impact. Gov. Asa Hutchinson on Wednesday announced his updated plan to cut the top marginal income tax rate from 6.9 percent to 5.9 percent over a two-year span, at a cost of \$97 million. Democratic State Rep. Vivian Flowers of Pine Bluff says the greater impact of the bill on state programs is still unknown.

News01

0:20

"...measure this new plan."

Hutchinson previously introduced a plan to cut the same tax rate over four years at a cost of \$192 million, following recommendations from the state Tax Reform and Relief Task Force. The latest bill, introduced by Sen. Jonathan Dismang, needs a three-fourths vote in the House to pass. Democrats currently hold 24 seats in the House, which is two seats less than needed to block the legislation.

Democratic state lawmakers are calling on their Republican colleagues to rethink a proposed tax cut for the state's top earners. KUAR's Daniel Breen has more.

News02

1:42

SOC

On Wednesday, Gov. Asa Hutchinson announced a bill to cut the state's top marginal income tax rate from 6.9 percent to 5.9 percent. It's an alternative to a previous plan that would have cost the state \$192 million in revenue. And while Hutchinson ran for reelection on the promise to make Arkansas more competitive with other nearby states, Democrats in the state legislature say that can be achieved without tax cuts. Rep. Vivian Flowers of Pine Bluff says spending on infrastructure and workforce programs would have a bigger impact on quality of life in the state. (News03 0:20) Also at issue for Democrats is a lack of dynamic scoring in the new bill, a process of forecasting a policy's impact while taking human behavior into account. The governor's previous tax cut plan included that, but the new one does not. Flowers says that's a non-starter. (News04 0:12) Under Hutchinson's plan, taxpayers making at least \$38,200 would see a decrease in taxes, with no increase in tax rates for any Arkansans. Legislative leaders were optimistic that the bill would pass, though it's unclear if it will get the 75 votes needed to clear the House. DJB, KUAR News.