

While Arkansas lawmakers have given final approval to a re-drawn map of the state's four Congressional districts, the legislative session focused on redistricting is being extended one more day. Leadership in the state House and Senate have agreed to convene again tomorrow (Fri) to vote on Senate Bill 731, sponsored by Republican Sen. Bob Ballinger of Berryville. It would allow employees who are retaliated against for not disclosing their COVID-19 vaccination status to seek restitution paid for with money from the American Rescue Plan. Ballinger defended his bill today (Thurs) while speaking on the Senate floor.

News01

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"...for yourself or not."

(NEED TO UPDATE): The proposal will be heard in a House committee this afternoon (Thurs) and, if passed, will face a final vote in the full House tomorrow (Fri).

Earlier in the day, lawmakers gave final approval to a bill that would allow workers to opt out of vaccine mandates imposed by employers. The bills are in response to new federal vaccination requirements for government workers and companies with more than 100 employees.

Arkansas workers who are retaliated against by employers for not disclosing whether they've been vaccinated for COVID-19 could seek restitution payments under a proposed bill nearing approval by the legislature. Lawmakers have agreed to extend the current legislative session for another day to give the state House of Representatives a chance to pass the bill, sponsored by Republican Sen. Bob Ballinger of Berryville. Speaking on the Senate floor today (Thurs), Ballinger said the bill is necessary to protect workers from sweeping new vaccine mandates proposed by President Joe Biden.

News02

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"...information or not."

Biden last month announced new vaccine requirements for government workers and employees of large private businesses. A bill that allows Arkansas workers to opt out of vaccine mandates entirely was approved by the legislature on Wednesday and is awaiting a signature from Gov. Asa Hutchinson. The Arkansas House and Senate are expected to adjourn tomorrow (Fri) morning.