

Biography of
THE HONORABLE KIM HAMMER
ARKANSAS STATE SENATOR



CHAIR SENATE EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE
SENATE DISTRICT 16

Senator Kim Hammer of Benton was elected to the state Senate in 2018, after serving in the House of Representatives for eight years. He represents Senate District 16, which includes parts of Saline County and southwestern Pulaski County.

Senator Hammer is chair of the Senate Efficiency Committee and of the Legislative Facilities Committee. He is a member of the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee, the Senate State Agencies and Governmental Affairs Committee, the Joint Retirement and Social Security Committee, the Joint Budget Committee, the Arkansas Legislative Council and the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee.

In 2025 Senator Hammer sponsored a package of bills to protect the integrity of the signature-gathering process for petitions to place initiatives on the ballot. He also sponsored legislation that allows Arkansas to join the dentist and dental hygienist state compact and to extend financing for vehicles and equipment for a rural fire department.

In 2023, Senator Hammer sponsored legislation to enhance medical coverage for pediatric disorders, to streamline reimbursements for mental health treatment and to protect the integrity of elections. Senator Hammer co-sponsored legislation to create a monument to the unborn on the state capitol grounds.

In 2021 he sponsored legislation that provided the legislature more input in policy-making during public health emergencies. He was the lead sponsor for

Act 403 of 2021 to empower the legislature to terminate executive orders for a statewide public health emergency.

He co-sponsored a series of election bills, such as a law to prevent electioneering within 100 feet of voting sites and to empower the legislature to investigate voting irregularities.

In previous legislative sessions he has co-sponsored bills affecting nurses, training of chiropractors, licensure of physical therapists, the prescribing of painkillers and controlled substances, emergency medical treatment, assisted living and palliative care, hospice care, the care and treatment of people with developmental disabilities and Medicaid reimbursements.

He was the Senate sponsor of Act 878 of 2019 and Act 430 of 2021 to provide insurance coverage for treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections, also known as PANDAS, and pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome, referred to as PANS. Senator Hammer chaired the PANS/PANDA Advisory Council.

Senator Hammer's legislative priorities include streamlining the process for registering motor vehicles and renewing drivers' licenses. His accomplishments include passing measures to modernize workforce services.

In past sessions, Senator Hammer sponsored legislation to make it easier for nurses to get funds to pay for their doctoral degree, to make foster children eligible for state scholarships and to strengthen the Arkansas Whistle-Blower Act.

Senator Hammer has sponsored bills helping rural fire departments and the state Forestry Commission. He also sponsored bills to create a program for educating parents about shaken baby syndrome. His legislation clarified the visitation rights of grandparents.

In 2019 Senator Hammer was the Assistant Pro Tempore for the Second District.

Senator Hammer chaired the committee to organize Saline Memorial Hospice and he served both as a volunteer and full-time chaplain from opening day to 2018. He and his wife, Karen, have two sons and a daughter. He is pastor of the Saline Missionary Baptist Church in Tull and has been in the ministry since 1978.