

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2011-203

REQUESTING THAT THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REFER TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGING, CHILDREN AND YOUTH, LEGISLATIVE & MILITARY AFFAIRS A STUDY OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, THE STATE'S VETERANS HOMES' PROCEDURES, SAFETY, FUNDING, AND THE STANDARDS OF CARE, AND ALTERNATIVES FOR PROVIDING PROPER CARE AND TREATMENT FOR THE STATE'S MILITARY VETERANS.

WHEREAS, the state's veterans have proudly served our country and earned the benefits provided by the federal government and the State of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the state has recently learned and recent news headlines illustrate that:

(1) The Little Rock Veterans Home collected unauthorized moneys from our state's war-wounded and disabled veterans who reside at the Little Rock Veterans Home;

(2) That the Little Rock Veterans Home may have felt compelled to improperly collect these moneys due to inadequate funding to maintain the home; and

(3) The Little Rock Veterans Home improperly collected more than \$580,000.00 in maintenance fees and is unable to repay the wrongfully charged veterans who reside at the home; and

WHEREAS, the state has a veteran population of over 257,625 and the proper administration of benefits, funding, care, and facilities for the state's veterans is important to the state; and

WHEREAS, all feasible solutions and alternatives should be considered to cure any deficiencies in the state's veterans homes or administration of benefits,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT PROPOSED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH

1 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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3 THAT the House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative &  
4 Military Affairs study the administration of the Arkansas Department of  
5 Veterans Affairs and the state's veterans homes' procedures, safety, funding,  
6 and standard of care, including without limitation the:

7 (1) Mechanisms implemented by the Arkansas Department of  
8 Veterans Affairs and the state's veterans homes to provide appropriate care  
9 to the state's veterans;

10 (2) Present and alternative funding sources for the state's  
11 veterans homes, including without limitation federal, state, and private  
12 funding;

13 (3) Standard of care administered by physicians, nurses, and  
14 staff at the state's veterans homes;

15 (4) Administrative procedures of the Arkansas Department of  
16 Veterans Affairs and the state's veterans homes;

17 (5) Alternatives in living arrangements in lieu of or in  
18 addition to the state's veterans homes that may better serve the state's  
19 veterans;

20 (6) Physical integrity and safety of the structures and  
21 locations of the state's veterans homes; and

22 (7) Social, economic, and other relevant demographics of the  
23 state's veterans residing or eligible to reside at the state's veterans  
24 homes.

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26 Respectfully submitted,

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30 Representative Jane English  
31 District 42

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36 By: JAM/NJR