

MINUTES

**Senate Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs
House Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs**

Meeting Jointly

Monday, December 4, 2023

1:30 PM

Room A, MAC

Committee members present: Senators Blake Johnson, Chair; Clark Tucker, Vice Chair; Jim Dotson and Stephanie Flowers; Representatives Dwight Tosh, Chair; Mark McElroy, Vice Chair; Mark Berry, Jimmy Gazaway, Justin Gonzales, Lane Jean, Josh Miller, Jon Milligan, Marcus Richmond, Kendon Underwood and Jeff Wardlaw

Other members present: Senators Ronald Caldwell, Linda Chesterfield, Alan Clark, Kim Hammer, Mark Johnson, Matt McKee, Reginald Murdock and Dan Sullivan; Representatives Keith Brooks, Cameron Cooper, Jack Ladyman, Wayne Long, Stetson Painter, Aaron Pilkington, David Ray, Joy Springer and Danny Watson

Representative Tosh called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve the May 24, 2023, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]

Representative Richmond made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative McElroy, and the motion carried.

Consideration for Adoption of Interim Study Proposals (ISPs) [Exhibits C1-C11]

Representative Tosh stated that without objection ISPs C1 through C11 were adopted.

Review of the 2023 Abstracter Investigations Annual Report [Exhibit D]

Diana Piechocki, Director, State Board of Appraisers, Abstracters, and Home Inspectors, and Miles Morgan, Attorney, Arkansas Department of Labor and Licensing, reviewed and discussed the annual report.

Representative Tosh stated that without objection the report would be reviewed and filed.

Discussion of Prison Conditions and Inmate Treatment at Arkansas Department of Corrections

Dexter Payne, Director, Arkansas Department of Corrections (ADC); Lindsay Wallace, Chief of Staff, ADC; and William Straughn, Deputy Director, ADC; discussed prison conditions and inmate treatment. Members of the Arkansas Department of Corrections Family Support Group (ADCFS) provided testimony regarding the treatment of their loved ones during incarceration.

Representative Gonzales made a motion to limit debate to five minutes per person and the motion carried.

Members of ADCFS, the Love First Initiative and Re-Entry, and the R.E.F.O.R.M. G.R.O.U.P. continued testimony regarding the treatment of those incarcerated.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM

DRAFT