

## MINUTES

### JOINT PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 4, 2024

9:00 AM

Room A, MAC

Little Rock, Arkansas

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Committee members present: Senators Kim Hammer, Co-Chair; Joshua Bryant, Vice-Chair; Justin Boyd, Jonathan Dismang, Scott Flippo, Jim Petty, Terry Rice, and Dan Sullivan; Representatives Mark H. Berry, Co-Chair; Mary Bentley, Bruce Cozart, Cindy Crawford, Les D. Eaves, Tony Furman, Jimmy Gazaway, Ashley Hudson, Robin Lundstrum, Marcus E. Richmond, Tara Shephard, Joy Springer, Carlton Wing, and Jim Wooten

Other members present: Senators Alan Clark, Breanne Davis, Jim Dotson, Jane English, Ben Gilmore, Bart Hester, Ricky Hill, Missy Irvin, Mark Johnson, Fredrick Love, Matt McKee, and Matt Stone; Representatives Howard Beaty, Jr., Stan Berry, John P. Carr, Cameron Cooper, Denise Jones Ennett, Jon S. Eubanks, Kenneth Ferguson, Grant Hodges, Steve Hollowell, Jack Ladyman, Tippi McCullough, Aaron Pilkington, Johnny Rye, Dwight Tosh, Kendon Underwood, Jeff Wardlaw, and Danny Watson

Representative Berry called meeting to order.

#### **Consideration to Approve the February 26, 2024, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]**

Representative Bentley made motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Cozart, and the motion carried.

#### **Discussion of Arkansas Board of Corrections (BOC) [Exhibits C1-C2]**

Dr. William "Dubs" Byers, Secretary, BOC; Benny Magness, Chairman, BOC; and Lee Watson, Board Member, BOC; discussed the sequence of events leading to the selection and procurement of Abtin Mehdizadegan as the representing attorney for the BOC following a lawsuit from the Office of the Attorney General of Arkansas involving recent Freedom of Information Act violations. Dr. Byers also discussed the current policies and by-laws of the Board's meetings. Mr. Watson discussed the reasoning behind his recommendation to hire Mr. Mehdizadegan as the Board's attorney.

Abtin Mehdizadegan, Attorney, Hall Booth Smith, P.C. Attorneys at Law, Little Rock Office, discussed his hiring by the BOC as their attorney. The creation and edits made within the services contract between Mr. Mehdizadegan and the BOC as well as Mr. Mehdizadegan's compensation and services to the BOC were also discussed.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.