

**MINUTES**  
**JOINT MEETING**  
**OF THE**  
**HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION**

**Monday, January 9, 2012**  
**1:30 P.M.**  
**Room 171, State Capitol**  
**Little Rock, Arkansas**

Representative Eddie Cheatham, the Chair of the House Interim Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**MEMBERS OF THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator Jimmy Jeffress, Chair; Senator Mary Anne Salmon, Vice Chair; Senator Joyce Elliott; Senator Bruce Holland; Senator Gene Jeffress; and Senator Johnny Key.

**MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Representative Eddie Cheatham, Chair; Representative Johnnie Roebuck, Vice Chair; Representative Duncan Baird; Representative Jerry Brown; Representative Les Carnine; Representative Ann Clemmer; Representative Robert Dale; Representative Jody Dickinson; Representative Jane English; Representative Debra Hobbs; Representative Karen Hopper; Representative Donna Hutchinson; Representative James McLean; Representative Tim Summers; and Representative Tommy Wren.

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Representative John Catlett; Representative Gary Deffenbaugh; Representative Jeremy Gillam; Representative Justin Harris; Representative Homer Lenderman; Representative Tiffany Rogers; and Representative Garry Smith.

**OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator David Burnett; Senator Randy Laverty; Senator David Wyatt; Representative Tommy Lee Baker; Representative John Burris; Representative David Fielding; Representative Billy Gaskill; Representative Jon Hubbard; Representative Sheilla Lampkin; Representative Buddy Lovell; Representative Tommy Thompson; and Representative Jeff Wardlaw.

*Without objection, the minutes of November 8, 2011, November 14, 2011, and November 15, 2011, were approved as written.*

Representative Cheatham welcomed the Committees back to the State Capitol following the holidays.

Preliminary Discussion of Interim Study Proposal (ISP) 2011-188 by Representative Roebuck, REQUESTING THAT THE INTERIM HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE INTERIM SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND CONTRACTED SERVICES DESIGNED TO

IDENTIFY STRUGGLING SCHOOLS, EVALUATE THE PROGRAMMATIC AND CURRICULAR OFFERINGS, AND IMPLEMENT CORRECTIVE ACTIONS TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT.

**The Honorable Johnnie Roebuck**, State Representative, District 20, was recognized. Representative Roebuck stated that this is a request to refer the study to the Committees so research can begin. She commented that the issue has been discussed, and reminded the members about the recent presentation of a report by the Arkansas Leadership Academy which raised questions that, hopefully, will be answered in this study. Representative Roebuck requested that the Committees allow the study to continue.

With no questions raised for discussion, Representative Cheatham entertained a motion.

Representative Roebuck moved adoption of Interim Study Proposal (ISP) 2011-188, and requested that the study be conducted by the House Interim Committee on Education and the Senate Interim Committee on Education. Pursuant to the motion of Representative Roebuck, and without objection, the motion to adopt the Interim Study Proposal was carried.

Preliminary Discussion of Interim Study Proposal (ISP) 2011-189 by Representative Roebuck, AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROCESS AFTER A SCHOLASTIC AUDIT IS PERFORMED; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Representative Roebuck stated that the Committees have heard preliminary reports on the scholastic audit process which helps a school district in school improvement identify concerns and weaknesses. She explained that a report which identifies ways a school district can improve in order to change its status is prepared by the ADE and sent back to the school district. Representative Roebuck said the scholastic audit has been a good process, just needing to be reviewed in order to see how it combines and works with other efforts by providers.

With no questions raised for discussion, Representative Cheatham entertained a motion.

Representative Roebuck moved adoption of Interim Study Proposal (ISP) 2011-189, and requested that the study be conducted by the House Interim Committee on Education and the Senate Interim Committee on Education. Pursuant to the motion of Representative Roebuck, and without objection, the motion to adopt the Interim Study Proposal was carried.

Representative Cheatham thanked Representative Roebuck.

Preliminary Discussion of Interim Study Proposal (ISP) 2011-191 by Senator J. Jeffress, Senator Laverty, and Senator Key, REQUESTING THAT THE INTERIM SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE EFFICACY OF USING TIERED SCHOLARSHIP AWARD AMOUNTS AND DIFFERENTIATED ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND OF OTHER PROPOSALS THAT SUPPORT THE STATE'S GOALS FOR IMPROVING THE RETENTION RATES AND PROGRESS TOWARD COMPLETION OF A CREDENTIAL FOR ARKANSAS POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS.

**The Honorable Jimmy Jeffress**, State Senator, District 24, was recognized. Senator Jeffress commented that he was looking for this study surrounding lottery scholarships to be data-driven. He hoped to have good discussions on the issue moving forward to the next Regular Session.

With no questions raised for discussion, Representative Cheatham entertained a motion.

Senator J. Jeffress moved adoption of Interim Study Proposal (ISP) 2011-191, and requested that the study be conducted by the House Interim Committee on Education and the Senate Interim Committee on Education. Pursuant to the motion of Senator Jeffress, and without objection, the motion to adopt the Interim Study Proposal was carried.

Representative Cheatham thanked Senator Jeffress, Senator Laverty, and Senator Key.

Representative Cheatham announced that the next joint meeting of the Senate Interim Committee on Education and the House Interim Committee on Education would be at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 10, 2012, in Room 171 of the State Capitol in Little Rock. This meeting will be reserved for issues related to adequacy.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.