

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
Meeting Jointly
Thursday, February 8, 2024
9:00 AM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Missy Irvin, Chair; Justin Boyd, Fredrick J. Love; Representatives Lee Johnson, Chair; Josh Miller, Vice-Chair; Mary Bentley, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Justin Gonzales, Zack Gramlich, Stephen Magie, Kendra Moore, Mark Perry, Aaron Pilkington, Ryan A. Rose, Bart Schulz, Jeff Wardlaw, and Jeremy Wooldridge

Other members present: Senators Kim Hammer, Bart Hester, Jonathan Dismang, Reginald Murdock; Representatives Keith Brooks, Joey Carr, Denise Ennett, Denise Garner, Jay Richardson, Jamie Scott, Joy Springer, Trey Steimel, and Danny Watson

Representative Johnson called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve the January 4, 2024, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]

Without objection, the minutes were approved.

Presentation by the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Association [Exhibits C1-C3]

Janet Thorn, Managing Director, MidSouth Territory, ALS Association; David Brunton, Chair, Arkansas ALS Leadership Council; Tommy May, ALS Patient; and Dr. Rohit Shall, Neurologist, UAMS; gave an overview on the impact of ALS in Arkansas, along with how Arkansas compares to other states on patient outreach.

Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of County Operations, Rules Pertaining to Act 923 – Independence Accounts & REPEALS: Social Services Block Grant Manual; Social Services Block Grant Pre-Expenditure Plan [Exhibit D]

Mitch Rouse, Chief of Staff, DHS, and Mary Franklin, Director, Division of County Operations, DHS, presented the rules pertaining to Act 923.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands as reviewed.

Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), Arkansas Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, Arkansas Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Rules [Exhibit E]

Nate Roe, Director, Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, ADH and Matt Gilmore, Public Health Programs Policy/Boards and Commission Coordinator, ADH, discussed the rules regarding the speech-language pathology and audiology.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands as reviewed.

Consideration for Adoption of Interim Study Proposals (ISPs) [Exhibit F]

Senator Irvin stated that without objection, ISP 2023-103 is adopted for study.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.