

MINUTES

SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEES ON CITY, COUNTY, AND LOCAL AFFAIRS

Wednesday, August 9, 2023

3:30 PM

Rogers Convention Center, 3303 S Pinnacle Hills Pkwy
Rogers, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Scott Flippo, Chair; Joshua Bryant, and Jim Petty; Representatives Lanny Fite, Chair; Stan Berry, Rebecca Burkes, Andrew Collins, DeAnna Hodges, Ashley Hudson, Richard McGrew, David Ray, Scott Richardson, Johnny Rye, and David Whitaker

Other members present: Senators Tyler Dees, Jim Dotson, Mark Johnson, and Bryan King; Representatives Harlan Breaux, Brian Evans, Denise Garner, Grant Hodges, Jack Ladyman, Austin McCollum, Brit McKenzie, Ron McNair, Aaron Pilkington, Chad Puryear, Matthew Shepherd, and Carlton Wing

Senator Scott Flippo called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve the Minutes from the June 14, 2023, Meeting [Exhibit B]

Representative Ray made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Richardson, and the motion carried.

Local Government Response to Crypto Mining Issues

John Wilkerson, General Counsel, Arkansas Municipal League (AML); Blake Gary, Legal Counsel, AML; and Chris Villines, Executive Director, Association of Arkansas Counties; discussed the local government response to crypto mining issues.

Discussion of Entergy Arkansas' Rate Schedule for Crypto Mining Facilities

John Bethel, Director of Public Affairs, Entergy Arkansas, presented the Arkansas rate schedule for crypto mining facilities.

Discussion of Crypto Mining and Act 851 of 2023: An Act to Create the Arkansas Data Centers Act of 2023; To clarify the regulation of the digital asset of mining business; and for other purposes. [Exhibit F]

Cameron Baker, Managing Member, Cryptic Farms, discussed crypto mining and support for Act 851 of 2023.

Business Registration Process for Crypto Mining Facilities

Jaime Land, Director of Public Relations, Arkansas Secretary of State's Office, reviewed the process on how to become a crypto mining facility in Arkansas.

Consideration for Adoption of Interim Study Proposal (ISP) [Exhibit H]

Senator Bryan King presented ISP 2023-014-An Act to Repeal the Arkansas Data Centers Act of 2023; and for other purposes. Senator Flippo made a motion to consider adoption of the ISP, seconded by Senator Petty, and the motion failed by voice vote.

Other Business [Handout I]

Jerry Jackson, Mayor of Harrison, Arkansas; and Honorable Glenn Redding, Boone County Quorum Court, explained their reasoning for repealing Act 851 of 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

DRAFT