

**MINUTES****JOINT PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, April 23, 2024  
15 Minutes Upon Adjournment of JBC Personnel  
Room A, MAC  
Little Rock, Arkansas**

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Committee members present: Senators Kim Hammer, Co-Chair; Joshua Bryant, Vice-Chair; Jonathan Dismang, Jim Petty, Terry Rice, and David Wallace; Representatives Mark H. Berry, Co-Chair; David Ray, Vice-Chair; Bruce Cozart, Tony Furman, Ashley Hudson, Jamie Scott, Tara Shephard, and Joy Springer

Other members present: Senators Ben Gilmore and Matt Stone; Representative Stetson Painter

Representative Berry call the meeting to order.

**Discussion of Arkansas Board of Corrections**

Senator Dismang made a motion to submit the following findings and recommendations to the Arkansas Legislative Council as a result of the committee's investigation: The Board of Corrections operated in disregard for public transparency including the apparent violation of Freedom of Information Act and open meetings laws, the Board lacked both financial and statutory authority to enter in the services contract, there were perceived and discussed violations of law, and there was an acknowledged lack of process for board meetings and the procurement process. As such, the committee recommends, in any event a contract between the Board of Corrections and Mr. Abtin Mehdizadegan for legal services rendered under the engagement letter dated and signed December 22nd, 2023, is presented for review and ratification before Legislative Council, that the Legislative Council not review the contract.

Seconded by Representative Ray, and the motion carried.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.