

AGENDA
Senate Committee on Children and Youth
House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative
& Military Affairs
Meeting Jointly

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

10:00 AM

Human Development Center
Conway, Arkansas

Sen. Gilbert Baker, Chair
Sen. Sue Madison, Vice Chair
Sen. Paul Miller
Sen. Percy Malone
Sen. Ed Wilkinson
Sen. Henry "Hank" Wilkins, IV
Sen. Kim Hendren
Sen. Shane Broadway
Sen. Shawn Womack
Sen. Jack Crumbly

Rep. Linda Chesterfield, Chair
Rep. Dawn Creekmore, Vice Chair
Rep. Johnny Key
Rep. Michael Lamoureux
Rep. J. R. Rogers
Rep. David Cook
Rep. Sharon Dobbins
Rep. Joan Cash
Rep. Billy Gaskill
Rep. David "Bubba" Powers
Rep. Ed Garner
Rep. Johnnie Roebuck

Rep. Bobby Pierce
Rep. Bryan King
Rep. Barry Hyde
Rep. Donna Hutchinson
Rep. Randy Stewart
Rep. Tracy Pennartz
Rep. Aaron Burkes
Rep. Steven Breedlove
Rep. Rick Saunders, Non-Voting
Rep. Stephanie Flowers, Non-Voting
Rep. Beverly Pyle, Non-Voting
Rep. Otis Davis, Non-Voting
Rep. Ray Kidd, Non-Voting

- A. Call to Order
- B. Approval of the Minutes from June 17, 2008 **(Exhibit B)**
- C. Adoption of Interim Study Proposal #2007-047, sponsored by Representative Barry Hyde, "An Act to Amend Arkansas Code Annotated § 9-9-209 (b) and 9-9-220 (b) to Provide a Parent with an Option to Waive the Number of Days from Ten (10) to Five (5) to Withdraw Consent or Relinquishment of Parental Rights for an Adoption; and for Other Purposes"; followed by a Discussion of Interim Study Proposal #2007-047 **(Exhibit C)**
1. Introduction by Representative Barry Hyde
 2. Ms. Antje Harris, Director of Catholic Adoption Services, Catholic Diocese of Little Rock
- D. Introduction of Interim Study Proposals, sponsored by Representative Donna Hutchinson
1. Adoption of Interim Study Proposal #2007-185, "Requesting that the House Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs Committee and the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth Study the State's Ability to Provide for the Safety and Protection of all Children in Foster Care and Under the Supervision of the Division of Children and Family Services of the Department of Human Services" **(Exhibit D-1)**
 2. Interim Study Proposal #2007-194, " Requesting the House Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs Committee and the Senate Interim Committee Study the Overall Effectiveness of the Adoption Procedures Utilized by the Division of Children and Family Services of the Department of Human Services for Children in Its Custody Compared to Procedures utilized by Private Adoption Agencies" **(Exhibit D-2)**
- E. Discussion regarding the Bergthold Case, Representative Donna Hutchinson
1. Detective Barb Shrum, Bella Vista Police Department **(Exhibit E, E-1 - E-8)**

Notice: Silence your cell phones. Keep your personal conversations to a minimum. Observe restrictions designating areas as "Members and Staff Only"

2. Ms. Beverly Engle, Director of Children's Advocacy Center (**Exhibit E-9**)
3. The Honorable Bob Balfe, United States Prosecuting Attorney, Western District of Arkansas
4. Ms. Pat Page, Director, Division of Children and Family Services, Arkansas Department of Human Services (**Exhibit E-10**)
5. Closing Statements

F. Discussion with Mr. Levi Thomas, United Family Services

G. Other Business

H. Adjournment