The Arkansas Legislative Council met at 9:00 a.m., Friday, February 21, 2020, in Committee Room A of the Big Mac Building, Little Rock, Arkansas. Co-Chair Jeff Wardlaw called the meeting to order and recognized a quorum of members present. The members present are listed on the sign-in sheets.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Co-Chair Wardlaw referred the members to the minutes of the last Legislative Council meeting on January 17, 2020 (Exhibit C) and asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

Representative Mark Lowery moved that the minutes of the January 17, 2020 meeting of the Legislative Council be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Bureau of Legislative Research: Website Presentation

Mr. Timothy Carlock, Assistant Director, Bureau of Legislative Research, Information Technology Division, and Mr. Don Ferren, Programmer, Bureau of Legislative Research, Information Technology Division gave a presentation of the newly updated Bureau of Legislative Research website. Mr. Carlock stated the updates to the website will be live starting Friday, February 28, 2020.

Report of the Executive Subcommittee

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Co-Chair Cecile Bledsoe to present the report of the Executive Subcommittee (Exhibit D). Co-Chair Bledsoe reported that at the request of the Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC), the Executive Subcommittee met upon adjournment of the January 17, 2020 ALC meeting, and reconsidered the emergency rule concerning district fees for the Benton County Regional Solid Waste Management District. Following discussion by the subcommittee, the emergency rule was reviewed and approved. This concluded the report of the Executive Subcommittee.

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Senator Jimmy Hickey, Jr. for questions. Senator Hickey asked if the emergency rule was good for 90 or 120 days. Co-Chair Wardlaw responded that the emergency rule is good for 120 days.

Co-Chair Cecile Bledsoe moved that the report of the Executive Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Reports of the Standing Subcommittees
行政法规委员会

执行委员会的主席Wardlaw通知参议员Lance Eads介绍行政法规委员会的报告（Exhibit E.1）。参议员Eads报告说，行政法规委员会于2020年2月19日开会，审议并批准了执行委员会的报告，包括紧急规则的批准，以及由司法部和阿肯色州假释委员会提交的季度报告，根据2015年法案1258号。所有规则都进行了审查和批准。参议员Eads进一步报告说，该委员会还听取了有关《2019年517号法案》的不健全规则制定的机构更新。这结束了行政法规委员会的报告，没有提出问题。

参议员Lance Eads提出，行政法规委员会的报告应被采纳。该提议得到第二，以口头投票通过。

高等教育委员会

执行委员会的主席Wardlaw通知代表David Whitaker介绍高等教育委员会的报告（Exhibit E.5）。代表Whitaker报告说，高等教育委员会于2020年2月20日开会。代表Whitaker说，该委员会听取了来自参议员Will Bond，阿肯色州高等教育局和阿肯色州独立学院和大学的代表们的陈述和讨论。来自奥扎克斯大学的代表讲述了创建一个在线门户，学生可以输入数据并申请大学和奖学金。他进一步说，该门户的目标是赋予学生和家庭权力，并提供一种简单了解机会和减少繁琐的途径。这结束了高等教育委员会的报告，没有提出问题。

代表David Whitaker提出，高等教育委员会的报告应被采纳。该提议得到第二，以口头投票通过。

个人特权

执行委员会的主席Wardlaw通知代表Carlton Wing提出个人特权。代表Wing利用这个机会来庆祝众议院议长Matthew Shepherd的生日。

绩效评估和支出审查（PEER）委员会

执行委员会的主席Wardlaw通知参议员Bruce Maloch介绍绩效评估和支出审查（PEER）委员会的报告（Exhibit E.8）。参议员Maloch报告说，该委员会于2020年2月18日开会，审议并批准了三项内容：教育部门的拨款转移请求；从雨天基金中为Succeeds奖学金计划和为老年人中心拨款。参议员Maloch进一步报告说，该委员会审查了许多其他项目，并接收了季度和月度报告。这结束了绩效评估和支出审查（PEER）委员会的报告，没有提出问题。
Senator Bruce Maloch moved that the report of the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Review Subcommittee

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Senator Scott Flippo to present the report of the Review Subcommittee (Exhibit E.10). Senator Flippo reported that the Review Subcommittee met on February 18, 2020, and reviewed methods of finance, contracts, a vehicle lease, timber sales, and grants. No items were held. This concluded the report of the Review Subcommittee.

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Senator Bart Hester for comments. Senator Hester expressed his concerns with the Arkansas Supreme Court spending an ample amount of money retrying a man who already admitted his guilt, when the monies could be used instead to help fund public defenders and other programs.

Senator Scott Flippo moved that the report of the Review Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Senator David Wallace to present the report of the Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee (Exhibit E.11). Senator Wallace reported that the Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee met on February 18, 2020, and received and discussed various reports that required no action. In addition, Senator Wallace stated, the subcommittee reviewed requests from institutions of higher education and the Executive Branch agencies and departments, as listed in the report (Items 6-14). The subcommittee also reviewed a request (Item 15) from the Department of Higher Education, which required a suspension of subcommittee rules due to late arrival of documentation to the subcommittee. This concluded the report of the Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

Senator David Wallace moved that the report of the Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Lottery Oversight Subcommittee

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Representative Chris Richey to present the report of the Lottery Oversight Subcommittee (Exhibit E. 12). Representative Richey reported that the Lottery Oversight Subcommittee met on February 20, 2020 and reviewed the following reports: (1) activities and operations of the Office of the Arkansas Lottery; (2) monthly disclosure reports filed pursuant to A.C.A.§ 23-115-206 and A.C.A. § 23-115-302; (3) annual Academic Challenge Scholarship Award Data and Student Status Report submitted pursuant to A.C.A.§ 6-85-219(c); and (4) heard testimony from Camelot Global regarding its business plan and consulting services. This concluded the report of the Lottery Oversight Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

Representative Chris Richey moved that the report of the Lottery Oversight Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.
Highway Commission Review and Advisory Subcommittee

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Senator Jonathan Dismang to present the report of the Highway Commission Review and Advisory Subcommittee (Exhibit E.13). Senator Dismang reported that the Highway Commission Review and Advisory Subcommittee met on February 19, 2020 and received an update from Guidehouse, LLC on the status of their study of the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ArDOT), as required by Act 298 of 2019. Senator Dismang further reported that the subcommittee moved that, for the purpose of conducting its assigned study of the Arkansas Department of Transportation, the ALC-Highway Commission Review and Advisory Subcommittee be authorized to meet during the Fiscal Session and thereafter through the remainder of 2020 as often as necessary, including on dates outside the regular ALC week. Senator Dismang stated the subcommittee received reports from ArDOT of the progress of each public road construction project of $10 million or more and discussed the project to replace the White River Bridge on I-40 in Prairie County. This concluded the report of the Highway Commission Review and Advisory Subcommittee.

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Representative Jim Dotson for questions. Representative Dotson asked Senator Dismang if the Arkansas Department of Transportation answered any more questions or provided any further information to the subcommittee in regard to the estimated $12-20 million dollars that may be spent by the State of Arkansas on the White River Bridge project. Senator Dismang responded that he is not aware that any further information had been received in regard to the White River Bridge project. Senator Dismang further stated that additional questions were asked of the Arkansas Department of Transportation and that the subcommittee was expecting to receive additional information.

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Senator Missy Irvin for questions. Senator Irvin asked Senator Dismang, when there are road issues or projects that warrant attention/repairs but are not being resolved, is it proper to present those issues to the Highway Commission Review and Advisory Subcommittee. Senator Dismang responded, yes, if there are issues that you would like to address to the subcommittee as it relates, and it is done by following proper policy and procedures, the subcommittee will take up individual issues.

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Representative Johnny Rye for comments. Representative Rye stated his concerns with the monetary break down of the federal-state funding of the White River Bridge project, and requested that the Arkansas Department of Transportation provide additional information on the funding of the project to the subcommittee.

Senator Jonathan Dismang moved that the report of the Highway Commission Review and Advisory Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Senator Missy Irvin to present the report of the Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee (Exhibit E.15). Senator Irvin reported that the Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee met on February 18, 2020 and received a report on occupational licenses and occupational authorizations from the Division of Environmental Quality as it relate to
asbestos. The subcommittee also discussed recommendations regarding the Arkansas Motor Vehicle Commission. Senator Irvin continued by stating, as a reminder, further recommendations from agencies will have to come back to the subcommittee before they are approved for final recommendations. This concluded the report for the Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

Senator Missy Irvin moved that the report of the Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Review of Communications

Co-Chair Wardlaw referred members to the communications listed as Exhibit G.1 through Exhibit G.16 on the agenda, and noted that action by the Legislative Council is needed for the following item(s):

G.1) Arkansas Secretary of State, Request for review and approval of a project for contracting under provisions of the Historic Sites Law for the Arkansas State Capitol, submitted pursuant to A.C.A. § 22-9-208 through A.C.A. § 22-9-211;


Co-Chair Wardlaw asked if there were any questions or discussion regarding Exhibit G.1 and Exhibit G.2. There were no questions.

Senator Jane English moved that Exhibit G.1- Arkansas Secretary of State, be filed as reviewed and approved. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Representative DeAnn Vaught moved that Exhibit G.2 – Arkansas Teacher Retirement System, be filed as reviewed. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Co-Chair Wardlaw asked if there were any questions or discussion regarding the other items listed under Communications. There were no other questions concerning the other communications listed on the agenda.

Interim Resolutions

Co-Chair Wardlaw asked if there were any questions or discussion regarding Interim Study Proposal 2019-145, by Representative Jay Richardson, requesting the Arkansas Legislative Council to refer to the House Committee on Judiciary, a study to examine the effect a prior criminal conviction has on a person’s ability to gain employment and to examine possible solutions to counter any negative impact a prior criminal conviction may have on a person’s ability to gain employment. There were no questions.

Co-Chair Wardlaw moved that without objection, the Interim Study Proposal 2019-145 will be referred to the House Committee on Judiciary. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.
Adjournment

At 9:35 a.m., the meeting was adjourned as there was no further business to come before the Legislative Council.

Respectfully submitted, ATTEST:

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Representative Jeff Wardlaw Marty Garrity
Co-Chair, House of Representatives Executive Secretary