

**REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL**

September 18, 2020

Senator Cecile Bledsoe, Co-Chair Senator Terry Rice, Vice Co-Chair Senator Jim Hendren Senator Bill Sample	Representative Jeff Wardlaw, Co-Chair Representative Jim Dotson, Vice Co-Chair Representative Matthew J. Shepherd Representative Kenneth B. Ferguson
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August 31, 2020 Meeting

We, the Executive Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council, met at 12:00 p.m. on August 31, 2020 in Room B of the Big MAC Building, Little Rock, Arkansas. Co-Chair Jeff Wardlaw called the meeting to order and saw a quorum of members present.

Consideration of An Emergency Rule

Department of Commerce, Arkansas Economic Development Commission – Mr. Steven Porch, Chief Legal Counsel, AEDC:

1) *Supplemental Emergency Arkansas Rural Connect Coronavirus Emergency Rule.*

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Mr. Steven Porch, Chief Legal Counsel, to present the request for review and approval of the emergency rule. After a brief presentation, Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized members for questions.

Following discussion, Co-Chair Wardlaw stated that without objection, the proposed emergency rule is reviewed and approved, and the review and approval was effective at 12:01 a.m. September 2, 2020.

Motion for Members-Elect

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Representative Jim Dotson for a motion.

Representative Dotson moved that a member-elect of the General Assembly may receive mileage and per diem for attending interim committee meetings of the General Assembly or a legislative task force meeting for which members of the General Assembly are entitled to mileage and per diem, in the same manner as members of the General Assembly receive these payments. A person is

considered to be a member-elect after the general election or special election in which that person successfully ran for office.

The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Motion for October ALC Week

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Senator Bill Sample for a motion.

Senator Sample moved that the ALC Subcommittee meetings for October, other than the meeting of the Highway Commission Review and Advisory Subcommittee, the Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee, and the Data-Sharing and Data-Driven Decision-Making Subcommittee, be cancelled and matters normally considered by the Subcommittees be brought directly to the full ALC at its October 16th meeting; Subcommittee items will only be considered at the October 16 meeting that have been determined by the ALC Chairs to have an imminent need, such that they cannot wait until the November meetings of the ALC Subcommittees.

The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Director's Report

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Ms. Marty Garrity, Director, Bureau of Legislative Research for the director's report. Ms. Garrity reported that with ALC - Joint Budget Hearings coming up, there are 88 seats available with microphones in Room A of the Big MAC Building. She further reported that there are 81 members of the Joint Budget Committee and 38 alternates, and if all 81 members were to attend a meeting, social distancing seating, in the manner it is setup now, would not be possible. With that, Ms. Garrity gave the following options for members to consider to comply with social distancing:

1. Install plexiglass between each seat. The implementation of the plexiglass would be between the seats and extend beyond the desk and in front. The cost estimate is about \$23,000.
2. Go paperless. Members would be given tablets instead of budget books. The cost is estimated at \$65,000 for tablets for 81 members.
3. Utilize both committee rooms A and B with social distancing seating. Some members will be without a microphone, but would have a desktop. There would be a direct feed flowing from/to each committee room and members in Room B would be able to use the microphones in that room and still be heard in Room A. The estimate for this option was not yet available.

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized members for questions. Following discussion, Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Senator Bill Sample for a motion.

Senator Sample moved that staff proceed with pursuing Option 1 to install plexiglass, and pursue getting an estimate for the cost to install a direct feed from/to Room A and Room B of the Big MAC building.

The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Cecile Bledsoe and Representative Jeff Wardlaw, Executive Subcommittee Co-Chairs

CB/JW/MG:sla