

MINUTES

**SENATE AND HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON STATE AGENCIES AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
AND
SENATE AND HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY
MEETING JOINTLY**

Monday, November 9, 2015

The Senate and House Interim Committees on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs met jointly with the Senate and House Interim Committees on Judiciary on Monday, November 9, 2015, 10:00 a.m., at the Department of Corrections, Cummins/Varner Unit Training Center in Varner, Arkansas.

Members in Attendance

Committee members in attendance: Senator Eddie Joe Williams, Chair; Representatives Nate Bell, Chair; Rick Beck, Camille Bennett, Mary Broadaway, Lanny Fite, Mike Holcomb, Douglas House, Rebecca Petty, Sue Scott, Dwight Tosh, and Jeff Wardlaw.

Non-Committee members in attendance: Representatives Jana Della Rosa and Mark McElroy.

Senator Williams called the meeting to order.

Varner Supermax and the Execution Chamber at Cummins

Wendy Kelley, Director, Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC), stated the current Arkansas Department of Correction population/jurisdiction is 18,321 and there are 1,826 inmates in county jail backup. The tours started at the Varner Super Maximum Security (Supermax) Unit. The facility currently has 454 inmates and 34 death row inmates. Of the 34 inmates on death row, there are 16 white males and 18 black males. The committee toured the execution chamber at the Cummins Unit. Dr. Mary Parker-Reed, Vice-Chair, Board of Corrections and Wendy Kelley reviewed ADC's policies and procedures of carrying out an execution and reviewed the process of implementing "Andie's Law." Members toured the location where additional relatives of the victim are able to view the execution through a closed-circuit audiovisual monitor.

Cummins/Varner Farm Operations

Davey Farabough, Farm Administrator, Arkansas Department of Correction, guided the tour of the milk processing plant where the inmates process raw milk into individual eight ounce serving packets. Currently, at the milk processing plant they process 1,150 to 1,200 gallons of milk every other day, which is enough to meet ADC needs. Members toured the cold storage facility where pork and ground beef are processed. Additionally, the committee toured the vegetable processing facility where inmates were processing green beans. There are about 25 different kinds of vegetables planted and harvested at the prison facility annually.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.