

ACTION SHEET

**STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL
LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM
LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE**

**Monday, March 16, 2015
12:30 p.m.
Room 171, State Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas**

Senator Jim Hendren, the Chair of the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program Legislative Task Force, called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

**MEMBERS OF THE STATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM
LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator Jim Hendren, Chair; Senator Cecile Bledsoe; Senator Eddie Cheatham; Senator Linda Chesterfield; Senator David J. Sanders; Representative Charlie Collins; Representative Charlene Fite; and Representative Laurie Rushing.

Remarks by the Chair

Senator Hendren welcomed new members, Representative Charlene Fite and Representative Laurie Rushing, to the Task Force.

Senator Hendren discussed the need to attend to several housekeeping items, including providing topics for the agenda, hearing responses from the Employee Benefits Division (EBD) to key findings from the report on the effectiveness of the Wellness program, finalizing a customer satisfaction survey, and having an amendment to extend the term of the Task Force. He went on to discuss the status of several Task Force reform bills.

Contributors to the Discussion:

Mr. Bob Alexander, Director, Employee Benefits Division, Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration
The Honorable Eddie Cheatham, State Senator, District 26
Ms. Robyn Keene, Financial Consultant, Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators (AAEA)

Discussion of Possible Legislation to Continue the Task Force

Mr. Bob Alexander, Director, Employee Benefits Division, Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration, was recognized. Mr. Alexander commented on the value of extending the Task Force beyond June 30, 2015. He stated that a lot of progress has been made with the Arkansas State Employee (ASE) and the Public School Employee (PSE) Health Insurance Programs, and that it has been great to have the involvement of the legislature. Mr. Alexander said he supports whatever extension the Task Force recommends.

The Honorable Charlie Collins, State Representative, District 84, was recognized, and commented that an extension would enable a more in-depth structural review of the ASE and PSE health insurance programs, possibly enabling more transformational change. For this reason, Representative Collins stated his support for the extension.

Senator Hendren noted his agreement with Representative Collins.

Relevant Action:

The Honorable Charlie Collins, State Representative, District 84, was recognized, and made a motion that members of the State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Program Legislative Task Force agree to amend SB824 to extend the Task Force for a year, with the option to disband earlier, if necessary. **The Honorable Linda Chesterfield**, State Senator, District 30, was recognized, and seconded the motion.

Pursuant to the motion by Representative Collins, and without objection, the motion was carried.

The Honorable David Sanders, State Senator, District 15, was recognized, and requested that the EBD provide the Task Force with a report on the number of liver transplants done over the past seven years.

Senator Collins requested that a discussion of Hepatitis C be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

Monday, March 23, 2015, Upon Adjournment of the House and Senate, in Room 171 of the State Capitol in Little Rock

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

Approved: 04/21/15