

JOINT PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

APRIL 15, 2014

MINUTES

The Joint Performance Review Committee met Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the Embassy Suites in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Committee members present were Senators Jane English, Senate Co-Chair, and Representatives Debra Hobbs, Douglas House, and Bruce Westerman.

Other legislators present were Representatives Ken Bragg, Fonda Hawthorne, Karen Hopper, and Mark McElroy.

Approval of Minutes – January 22, 2014 [Exhibit B]

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2014 meeting of the Joint Performance Review (JPR) Committee was made by Representative Douglas House and seconded by Bruce Westerman. The motion carried.

Opening Remarks – Senator Jane English, Senate Co-Chair, JPR Committee

Senator English called the meeting to order and asked the legislators to introduce themselves. She then discussed the following methods the JPR Committee will use in its efforts to develop a comprehensive statewide workforce system:

- ❖ JPR Committee meetings will be held throughout the state
- ❖ The Committee will identify successful and unsuccessful programs
- ❖ The Committee will determine how to coordinate existing resources
- ❖ The Committee will research resource results
- ❖ The Committee will work with kindergarten through 12th grade institutions
- ❖ The Committee will work with higher education institutions
- ❖ The Committee will research funding mechanisms

Overview of the SkillsUSA Program and Observation of the State Championship Competition

Senator English introduced Chip McAfee, Arkansas SkillsUSA State Director, State Program Advisor, Office of Skilled and Technical Sciences, Arkansas Department of Career Education. Mr. McAfee gave an overview of the SkillsUSA program, a national nonprofit student organization, which serves students enrolled in Career and Technical Education (CTE) training programs. The CTE program includes 15,000 school chapters in 54 state and territorial associations and serves more than 300,000 members annually. The program provides an applied method of learning where students practice technical skills and build self confidence while helping their schools and communities. The career and technical classes provide students the skills necessary to secure and perform a job. SkillsUSA gives students the skills to acquire

and keep a job. SkillsUSA teaches students how to complete a resume, how to perform a job interview, how to handle workplace situations, and prepares them to enter the workforce. The SkillsUSA Championship Competition is the showcase activity of the organization. The annual event begins with contests in the classroom. Winners of local contests advance through district or regional events to state level competitions. Winners of state level competitions are selected to participate in a national event.

Mr. Bill Walker, Director, Arkansas Department of Career Education, was recognized. He thanked the legislators for holding the committee meeting during the SkillsUSA competition. He believes the CTE program is an excellent example of business and government uniting. Arkansas businesses and industries support the program through their participation and donations of equipment for the event. Mr. Walker said that \$3 million in equipment was provided for this year's competition.

Mr. McAfee was asked what legislators can do to help raise awareness of the CTE programs. Mr. McAfee said encouraging strong partnerships with local industries and asking them to help supply up-to-date equipment and tools, which can be used by students during the competition, would be a great first step. He gave the example of the Nabholz Construction Company who provided all of the construction materials used during the 2014 competition. Mr. McAfee asked legislators to promote SkillsUSA in their districts and encourage industry and government agencies to partner with the organization.

The meeting recessed at 9:35 a.m. Legislators then toured the Hot Springs Convention Center and observed the competition events.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.