

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2011-203

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3 REQUESTING THAT THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REFER TO THE  
4 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGING, CHILDREN AND YOUTH, LEGISLATIVE &  
5 MILITARY AFFAIRS A STUDY OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ARKANSAS  
6 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, THE STATE'S VETERANS HOMES'  
7 PROCEDURES, SAFETY, FUNDING, AND THE STANDARDS OF CARE, AND  
8 ALTERNATIVES FOR PROVIDING PROPER CARE AND TREATMENT FOR THE  
9 STATE'S MILITARY VETERANS.

10  
11 WHEREAS, the state's veterans have proudly served our country and  
12 earned the benefits provided by the federal government and the State of  
13 Arkansas; and

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15 WHEREAS, the state has recently learned and recent news headlines  
16 illustrate that:

17 (1) The Little Rock Veterans Home collected unauthorized moneys  
18 from our state's war-wounded and disabled veterans who reside at the Little  
19 Rock Veterans Home;

20 (2) That the Little Rock Veterans Home may have felt compelled  
21 to improperly collect these moneys due to inadequate funding to maintain the  
22 home; and

23 (3) The Little Rock Veterans Home improperly collected more than  
24 \$580,000.00 in maintenance fees and is unable to repay the wrongfully  
25 charged veterans who reside at the home; and

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27 WHEREAS, the state has a veteran population of over 257,625 and the  
28 proper administration of benefits, funding, care, and facilities for the  
29 state's veterans is important to the state; and

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31 WHEREAS, all feasible solutions and alternatives should be considered  
32 to cure any deficiencies in the state's veterans homes or administration of  
33 benefits,

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35 NOW THEREFORE,

36 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH

1 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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3 THAT the House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative &  
4 Military Affairs study the administration of the Arkansas Department of  
5 Veterans Affairs and the state's veterans homes' procedures, safety, funding,  
6 and standard of care, including without limitation the:

7 (1) Mechanisms implemented by the Arkansas Department of  
8 Veterans Affairs and the state's veterans homes to provide appropriate care  
9 to the state's veterans;

10 (2) Present and alternative funding sources for the state's  
11 veterans homes, including without limitation federal, state, and private  
12 funding;

13 (3) Standard of care administered by physicians, nurses, and  
14 staff at the state's veterans homes;

15 (4) Administrative procedures of the Arkansas Department of  
16 Veterans Affairs and the state's veterans homes;

17 (5) Alternatives in living arrangements in lieu of or in  
18 addition to the state's veterans homes that may better serve the state's  
19 veterans;

20 (6) Physical integrity and safety of the structures and  
21 locations of the state's veterans homes; and

22 (7) Social, economic, and other relevant demographics of the  
23 state's veterans residing or eligible to reside at the state's veterans  
24 homes.

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26 Respectfully submitted,

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30 Representative Jane English  
31 District 42

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36 By: JAM/NJR