

**REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
AND EXPENDITURE REVIEW (PEER)
OF THE
ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

October 20, 2023

Dear Co-Chairs:

Your Subcommittee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) met on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, and after having considered the following items, reports that the Subcommittee's review and/or approval is complete unless otherwise noted.

Items for Approval

A. Various Temporary Appropriation Requests

1. Department of Education – Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - \$200,000
2. Department of Public Safety – State Crime Laboratory - \$277,000
3. Department of Public Safety – Division of State Police - \$200,000
4. Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism – Division of State Parks - \$800,000
5. Department of Corrections – Division of Correction – Farm Equipment - \$1,100,000
6. Department of Corrections – Division of Correction – Juvenile Sex Offender Assessments - \$120,000
7. Game and Fish Commission - \$3,500,000

B. American Rescue Plan Act Appropriation Requests

Direct Federal Awards

1. Department of Agriculture – Resilient Food Systems - \$5,613,424
2. Department of Agriculture – Arkansas School Garden Project - \$555,343

State Awards

3. Department of Human Services – Emergency Aid Relief to Hospitals – Baxter Health - \$4,589,119
4. Department of Human Services – Emergency Aid Relief to Hospitals – Fulton County Hospital - \$5,000,000
5. Department of Human Services – Emergency Aid Relief to Hospitals – Arkansas Methodist Medical Center - \$3,301,356
6. Department of Human Services – Emergency Aid Relief to Hospitals – Howard Memorial Hospital - \$3,441,839
7. Department of Commerce – Statewide Initiative for Nurse Staffing - \$25,000,000
8. Department of Commerce – City of Paris Community Center - \$3,800,000

Item Held from Previous Meeting

9. Department of Human Services – Division of Aging, Adult and Behavioral Health – Expanding Workforce within Aging Network (Direct Federal Award) - \$628,878

Subcommittee moved to recommend Legislative Council request Legislative Audit work with the Department of Finance and Administration's consultants, Alvarez & Marsal, the Division of Information Systems, and relevant hospitals to ensure hospital compliance with the Cybersecurity Defense Checklist. The checklist will include many of the Division of Information System's recently promulgated standards for schools and cities. Upon hospital completion of the checklist and completion of the audit by Legislative Audit, the subcommittee asks that Legislative Audit notify Daniel Harlan, Managing Director with Alvarez & Marsal.

Subcommittee moved to request that Legislative Audit make this a priority since compliance with these standards is a prerequisite for the receipt of funds.

C. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Appropriation Requests

1. Department of Transportation - \$280,000,000
2. Department of Agriculture – Division of Natural Resources – Drinking Water - \$11,367,000
3. Department of Agriculture – Division of Natural Resources – Clean Water - \$612,000
4. Department of Energy and Environment – Division of Environmental Quality - \$157,476

D. Restricted Reserve Fund Transfer Requests

1. Game and Fish Commission - \$3,500,000
2. Department of Veterans Affairs - \$202,000
3. Department of Education – Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - \$6,560,000

Items for Review

E. Cash Fund Appropriation Requests

1. Department of Corrections – Division of Correction - \$1,500,000
2. Department of Public Safety – Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training - \$414,000
3. Department of Veterans Affairs - \$202,000
4. Department of Education – Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - \$8,025,000

F. Budget Classification Transfer Requests

1. Department of Public Safety – Crime Information Center - \$307,632 from Operating Expenses to Capital Outlay

2. Arkansas Teacher Retirement System - \$10,000 from Operating Expenses to Capital Outlay

G. Miscellaneous Federal Grant Appropriation Requests

1. Department of the Military - \$15,000,000
2. Department of Commerce – Division of Services for the Blind - \$1,288,894
3. Department of Energy and Environment – Office of the State Geologist – Data Preservation - \$67,736
4. Department of Energy and Environment – Office of the State Geologist – Mapping - \$106,729
5. Department of Energy and Environment – Division of Environmental Quality – Coal Combustion - \$205,882
6. Department of Energy and Environment – Division of Environmental Quality – Clean Air - \$187,195
7. Department of Agriculture - \$364,134
8. Department of Energy and Environment – Division of Environmental Quality – Water Quality - \$50,000

H. Overtime Appropriation Request

1. Department of Corrections – Division of Correction - \$6,000,000

Reports

I. Annual Report

1. Agency Carry Forward of Unexpended Balances Report

J. Monthly Reports

1. Surplus Income and Distribution Report
2. Budget Stabilization Trust Fund Report
3. Tobacco Settlement Report
4. State Central Services Fund Report
5. American Recue Plan Act Report

Respectfully submitted by Subcommittee Co–Chairs, Senator Jonathan Dismang and Representative Frances Cavanaugh