

**REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

February 16, 2024

Senator Terry Rice, Co-Chair	Representative Jeff Wardlaw, Co-Chair
Senator Ben Gilmore, Vice Co-Chair	Representative Bruce Cozart, Vice Co-Chair
Senator Missy Irvin	Representative Matthew J. Shepherd
Senator Bart Hester	Representative Kenneth B. Ferguson

February 15, 2024 Meeting

We, the Executive Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council, met Thursday, February 15, 2024, in Room B of the Big MAC Building, Little Rock, Arkansas. Co-Chair Jeff Wardlaw called the meeting to order and saw a quorum of members present. Representative Cameron Cooper gave the afternoon prayer.

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Ms. Jill Thayer, Chief Legal Counsel, Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR), to discuss a draft RFP for audio-visual equipment and services. With no questions from members, **Senator Missy Irvin moved to approve the RFP for audio-visual equipment and services. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

Co-Chair Wardlaw then recognized Ms. Janet Mann, Deputy Secretary for Programs and State Medicaid Director, and Ms. Tiffany Wright, the newest Director of the Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Department of Human Services. Ms. Wright was introduced to members and asked to provide any point of contact information.

Afterwards, Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Mr. Greg Rogers, Chief Financial Officer, and Mr. Tim McCain, Director, Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation; and Dr. Ken Warden, Commissioner, and Mr. Nick Fuller, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Higher Education (DHE), to present on the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE): Insurance and property maintenance requirements for K-12 schools and institutions of higher education.

Co-Chair Wardlaw made a statement directed to the Arkansas Department of Education, stating:

"When Senator Rice, the Review Subcommittee Chairs, and I granted emergency review of the ADE/ClassWallet contract for the Education Freedom Accounts last August, it was done with the understanding that the contract had a term of only one (1) year-through July of 2024. I want to be clear that we did not grant emergency review of any extensions the department may want for that contract. It is our expectation that any extension of that contract, or any new contract that may come out of your procurement process related to administering the education freedom accounts, will be submitted to the Review Subcommittee and the ALC for review."

The Subcommittee then heard a presentation related to the Education Facilities Property Insurance Study from Mr. Roberts Lee, Mr. Clint Lamberth, and Mr. Kyle Morgan, Meadors, Adams & Lee Insurance, Inc.

Lastly, Ms. Marty Garrity, Director, Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR) informed members of the need for additional conference rooms, due to high usage and the backlog of requests to utilize the few conference rooms that are available. **Senator Missy Irvin moved to approve the Bureau of Legislative Research to engage in services to establish two (2) conference rooms for legislative members, on the fifth (5th) floor of the Big MAC building, across from the Committee Room B. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Jeff Wardlaw, Co-Chair and Senator Terry Rice, Co-Chair