

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**OF THE**  
**ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ALC)**

**October 17, 2025**

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The Arkansas Legislative Council met at 9:00 a.m., Friday, September 26, 2025, in Committee Room A of the Big MAC Building, Little Rock, Arkansas. House Co-Chair Les D. Eaves called the meeting to order and recognized a quorum of members present. Senator Ricky Hill was recognized for the morning prayer.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Co-Chair Eaves referred members to the minutes of the last Legislative Council meeting held on August 15, 2025 (Exhibit C) and asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

**Senator Ben Gilmore moved that the minutes of the August 15, 2025, meeting of the Legislative Council be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

**Supplemental Agenda**

**Senator Ben Gilmore moved to suspend the ALC rules to take up the supplemental agenda. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Senator Terry Rice to present Interim Resolution 2025-002, by Senator Terry Rice, requesting that the Legislative Council honor the memory of Senator Gary Stubblefield for his many contributions to his community and his home state of Arkansas.

Co-Chair Eaves then recognized Senator Missy Irvin to present Interim Resolution 2025-003, by Senator Missy Irvin and Representative Mark Perry, requesting that the Legislative Council honor the memory of Charles James "Charlie" Kirk, as an icon of modern American conservatism and a proponent of his Christian faith.

**Revenue Report**

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Dr. Carlos Silva, Legislative Economist, Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR), to present the August 2025 General Revenue Report and Annual Revenue Report (Exhibit D). Dr. Silva reported that the collections of Gross General Revenues year-to-date are approximately \$1.29 billion, an increase of \$69.5million, or 5.7% above the \$1.22 billion collected last fiscal year-to-date. The Net General Revenue available for distribution of \$1.13 billion, increased \$82.4 million, or 7.9% from the \$1.04 billion available for distribution in August 2024.

Dr. Silva stated that the Cumulative Deviation is a \$75.7 million difference above forecast for August 2025. He then gave further updates on additional items. This concluded the August 2025 General Revenue report. Co-Chair Eaves recognized members for questions.

### Report of the Executive Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Senate Co-Chair Ben Gilmore to present the report of the Executive Subcommittee (Exhibit E). Co-Chair Gilmore reported that the Executive Subcommittee met on Thursday, September 25, 2025, and approved waiver requests for Cooperative Purchasing Construction Services for Jackson County School District and De Queen School District. The Subcommittee also approved two (2) consultant services contracts:

- Georgia Center for Opportunity Inc. - for the use of the ALC Hospital, Medicaid, & Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee related to workforce social services study;
- EXCEL Services Corporation - for the Joint Energy Committee to conduct a nuclear energy feasibility study.

This concluded the report of the Executive Subcommittee. Co-Chair Eaves recognized members for questions. Ms. Marty Garrity, Director, Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR), was recognized to respond.

**Co-Chair Ben Gilmore moved that the report of the Executive Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

### Standing Subcommittee Presentations

#### Administrative Rules Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Representative Matthew Shephard to present the report of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee (Exhibit F.1). Representative Shepherd reported that the Administrative Rules Subcommittee met on Thursday, September 25, 2025. The Subcommittee filed one (1) report of the Executive Subcommittee concerning its review and approval of an emergency rule. The Subcommittee approved one (1) request for exclusion from the reporting requirements for 2025 rulemaking by the Oil and Gas Commission. The Subcommittee also received agency updates on outstanding rulemaking from the 2023 Regular Session. All other rules were reviewed and approved as noted in the report. This concluded the report of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

**Representative Matthew Shepherd moved that the report of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

#### Charitable, Penal & Correctional Institutions Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Senator Matt McKee to present the report of the Charitable, Penal & Correctional Institutions Subcommittee (Exhibit F.2). Senator McKee reported the Charitable, Penal & Correctional Institutions Subcommittee met on Tuesday, September 23, 2025. The Subcommittee heard testimony regarding the following items: discussion on the Department of Correction's Critical Incident report regarding the prisoner escape from the North Central Unit in Calico Rock; presentation of the Arkansas State Police Investigation report regarding the prisoner escape from the North Central Unit in Calico Rock; and an update from the Department of Corrections and the Board of Corrections regarding their current policies and protocols related to prison security and current vacant positions within the Department of Corrections. This concluded the report of the Charitable, Penal & Correctional Institutions Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

**Senator Matt McKee moved that the report of the Charitable, Penal & Correctional Institutions Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

Claims Review & Litigation Reports Oversight Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Representative DeAnn Vaught to present the report of the Claims Review & Litigation Reports Oversight Subcommittee (Exhibit F.3). Representative DeAnn Vaught reported the Claims Review & Litigation Reports Oversight Subcommittee on Monday, September 22, 2025, and reviewed four (4) litigation reports and six (6) litigation settlements. Three (3) litigation reports were pulled from consideration prior to the meeting at the agency's request. At the request of the Claims Commission, one (1) claim was pulled from consideration prior to the meeting. The Subcommittee affirmed the rulings of the Claims Commission as to all other claims on the agenda. This concluded the report of the Claims Review & Litigation Reports Oversight Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

**Representative DeAnn Vaught moved that the report of the Claims Review & Litigation Reports Oversight Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

Highway Commission Review and Advisory Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Senator John Payton to present the report of the Highway Commission Review and Advisory Subcommittee (Exhibit F.6). Senator Payton reported the Highway Commission Review and Advisory Subcommittee met on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, and heard testimony on the ALC Efficiency Study Recommendations rules for implementation; quarterly reports for Land Conveyances; Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act reports; and reports on highway construction projects of \$10 million or more. This concluded the report of the Highway Commission Review and Advisory Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

**Senator John Payton moved that the report of the Highway Commission Review and Advisory Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Representative Mary Bentley, to present the report of the Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee (Exhibit F.7). Representative Bentley reported that the Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee met on Monday, August 18, 2025, and Friday, September 19, 2025, to discuss state-specific workforce reform initiatives and hear testimony on the child abuse hotline procedures.

The Subcommittee met on Monday, September 22, 2025, to review various programs and discuss updates on reimbursement rates related to the Living Choices Assisted Living Waiver. The Subcommittee approved a motion to engage the Georgia Center for Opportunities for audit services related to a study mandated by Act 145 of 2025, addressing workforce and social services reform.

The Subcommittee met again on Wednesday, September 25, 2025, to discuss the Utah Workforce Services Program. This concluded the report of the Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

**Representative Mary Bentley moved that the report of the Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Representative Stephen Meeks to present the report of the Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee (Exhibit F.10). Representative Meeks reported the Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee met on Monday, September 22, 2025, and Thursday, September 25, 2025, and received reports from various occupational authorization entities in Group 6. This concluded the report of the Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

**Representative Stephen Meeks moved that the report of the Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Representative Jeff Wardlaw to present the report of the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee (Exhibit F.11). Representative Wardlaw reported that the PEER Subcommittee met on Tuesday, September 23, 2025. The Subcommittee received reports, reviewed requests, and approved the following: Various Temporary Appropriations; Cares Act Appropriations; American Rescue Plan Act Appropriations; Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Appropriations; and Restricted Reserve Fund Transfers. This concluded the report of the PEER Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

**Representative Jeff Wardlaw moved to adopt the report of the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee.**

Review Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Senator Blake Johnson to present the report of the Review Subcommittee (Exhibit F.12). Senator Johnson reported that the Review Subcommittee met on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, and reviewed the methods of finance, discretionary grants, two (2) agency ratifications, RFQ approval requests, and services contracts. All items presented were reviewed. This concluded the report of the Review Subcommittee.

Co-Chair Eaves recognized members for questions. Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford, Chief of Staff, Mr. Greg Rogers, Chief Fiscal Officer, Department of Education, were recognized to respond to questions. A request for point of order was made by Senator Ricky Hill to move for immediate consideration; however Co-Chair Eaves denied the request moving forward with questions from members, then acknowledging the motion on the floor.

**Senator Blake Johnson moved to adopt the report of the Review Subcommittee. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

State Insurance Programs Oversight Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Representative Jack Ladyman, to present the report of the State Insurance Programs Oversight Subcommittee (Exhibit F.13). Representative Ladyman reported the State Insurance Programs Oversight Subcommittee met on Wednesday, September 24, 2025. The Subcommittee reviewed EBD contracts for Datapath Administrative Services, Inc. Contract, and Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Company Contract Renewal. This concluded the report of the State Insurance Programs Oversight Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

**Representative Jack Ladyman moved that the report of the State Insurance Programs Oversight Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Representative Les Warren to present the report of the Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee (Exhibit F.14). Representative Warren reported the Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee met on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, and reviewed the reports and requests listed in the report as Items 1-9. No items were held. This concluded the report of the Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee. Due to several questions from members, Representative Warren made a request for Colonel Mike Hagar, Secretary, Department of Public Safety, Director, Arkansas State Police, to come forward to address questions regarding the Arkansas Federal Surplus Property Program.

**Representative Les Warren moved that the report of the Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee be adopted.**

**Review of Communications**

Co-Chair Eaves referred members to the communications listed on the agenda as Items H.01 - H.11 and noted that action by Legislative Council was needed for Item H.09(b).

Co-Chair Eaves then recognized Senator Jimmy Hickey, Jr. to ask questions of the Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy regarding a rule under the ALC Administrative Rules report. Dr. John C. Kirtley, Director, Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy, and Mr. Matt Gilmore, Boards and Commissions, Arkansas Department of Health, came forward to respond.

Moving on, Co-Chair Eaves recognized members for questions on Item H.09(b). Mr. Jeff King, Deputy Director, Division of State Parks, came forward to respond.

H.09(b) - Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism, Division of State Parks, Request for favorable advice to establish a new state park or make acquisitions of real property for additions to or expansions of existing state parks, submitted pursuant to A.C.A. § 22-4-106.

**After discussion, Senator Missy Irvin moved to give favorable advice on the request from the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism, Division of State Parks. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

**New Interim Study Proposals and Interim Resolutions**

J.01 - Interim Study Proposal 2025-077, by Representative Kendra Moore, is to refer to the House Committee on Education, a study to evaluate the educational and economic impact of allowing students with documented learning differences to use text-to-speech assistive technology during state assessments in Arkansas.

**Representative DeAnn Vaught moved to refer ISP 2025-077 to the House Education Committee. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

J.02 - Interim Study Proposal 2025-078, by Representative Joy Springer, is to refer a study to the House Committee on Education regarding the provision of instructional assistance and test-taking costs for individuals seeking nursing certification in Arkansas.

**Co-Chair Ben Gilmore moved to refer ISP 2025-078 to the House Education Committee. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

### **Point of Personal Privilege**

Co-Chair Eaves recognized BLR Director Garrity for a point of personal privilege. Ms. Garrity then recognized Mr. Eric Sanders, Chief Information Technology Officer for the BLR IT Division, as he entered retirement. Eric worked for BLR for almost 20 years and for the state for more than 28 years. He started at BLR in the IT Division as PC Support, worked his way up to Administrator, and finally became the Assistant Director. Eric's positive demeanor and service to the state and the General Assembly is much appreciated.

Senator Missy Irvin was recognized to announce that the ALC Game and Fish/State Police Subcommittee will meet October 1, 2025, at the Game and Fish Headquarters, at 9:00 a.m.

### **Adjournment**

At 10:10 a.m., the meeting was adjourned as there was no further business to come before the Legislative Council.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

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Representative Les D. Eaves  
Co-Chair, House

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Marty Garrity  
Executive Secretary