

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Friday, December 20, 2019

The Arkansas Legislative Council met at 9:00 a.m., Friday, November 15, 2019, in Committee Room A of the Big Mac Building, Little Rock, Arkansas. Co-Chair Cecile Bledsoe called the meeting to order and recognized a quorum of members present. The members present are listed on the sign-in sheets.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Co-Chair Bledsoe referred the members to the minutes of the last Legislative Council meeting on October 18, 2019 (Exhibit C) and asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

Representative DeAnn Vaught moved that the minutes of the October 18, 2019 meeting of the Legislative Council be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Point of Personal Privilege

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Representative David Whitaker to welcome his niece, Ms. Julia Raney, a new Arkansas state employee, to her first Arkansas Legislative Council meeting.

Co-Chair Bledsoe also recognized and welcomed newly-elected Representative Denise Ennett to the Arkansas General Assembly.

Presentation of Citations

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Senator Kim Hammer to present citations on behalf of himself and the Arkansas Senate, and Representative Andy Davis and the House of Representatives, to Sophie Kennedy, Brendon Redman, and Hunter Taylor of Lake Norrell, Alexander, Arkansas for rendering life-saving techniques to a man who fell over 20 feet from his ladder and sustained severe head injuries. Sophie, Brendan, and Hunter provided assistance to the man until Fire Chief Ronald Forsythe and Dr. Douglas Brown with the Lake Norrell Area Fire and Rescue were able to medically assist. Without the assistance provided by the young individuals, the man may not have survived.

Reports of the Standing Subcommittees

Administrative Rules Subcommittee

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Representative Dan Sullivan to present the report of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee (Exhibit E.1). Representative Sullivan reported that the Administrative Rules Subcommittee met on November 13, 2019, and reviewed and approved all rules on the agenda.

This concluded the report of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

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

Game and Fish/State Police Oversight Subcommittee

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Representative Josh Miller to present the report of the Game and Fish/State Police Subcommittee (Exhibit E.4). Representative Miller reported that the Game and Fish/State Police Subcommittee met on October 30, 2019 at the Henry Gray Hurricane Lake Wildlife Management area in Bald Knob, AR and heard testimony and had discussion on the following:

- The current and future condition of Greentree Reservoirs (GTRs) which are bottomland forests artificially flooded by land managers to provide duck habitat and duck-hunting opportunities;
- Arkansas' national status as the waterfowl hunting destination with over 100,000 hunters in the state harvesting over 1,000,000 ducks a year;
- The situation with bottomland hardwood forests on public land in Arkansas which are at crises stage as far as the long term health of the forest; and
- Rules and Regulations adopted by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission: Special Youth Waterfowl Hunt Restrictions, Veteran and Active-Duty Military Waterfowl, Turkey Stamp Regulations, Financial Impact Statement, Minute Order for Regulations, and proposed Captive Wildlife Regulation.

This concluded the report of the Game and Fish/State Police Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

Representative Josh Miller moved that the report of the Game and Fish/State Police Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Higher Education Subcommittee

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Representative David Whitaker to present the report of the Higher Education Subcommittee (Exhibit E.5). Representative Whitaker reported that the Higher Education Subcommittee met on November 13, 2019, and heard input from Public 2-Year and 4-Year Higher Education Institutions regarding the Productivity Funding Formula's Impact. From a system president to chancellors from various 2-year and 4-year institutions, both system-based and independent, information and suggestions shared with the subcommittee included:

- Possibly set aside institutions with similar goals;
- Can excel in a category, but need more students;
- Have a data-based 3 or 4-year review of the formula;
- The 2% cap serves as a "guard rail";
- Some institutions have gained funding, other institutions have lost funding, some will do better in the future, but it will take time to see results of changes.

This concluded the report of the Higher Education Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

Representative David Whitaker moved that the report of the Higher Education Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Litigation Reports Oversight Subcommittee

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Representative Lanny Fite to present the report of the Litigation Reports Oversight Subcommittee (Exhibit E.7). Representative Fite reported that the subcommittee met on November 14, 2019, and reviewed eight (8) litigation cases involving the Department of Labor, seeking labor wage collections on behalf of workers who were owed compensation from their former employers. Representative Fite further reported that the subcommittee reviewed one settlement involving a civil matter, Amber Ashley v. Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, et al. The parties agreed on a total settlement of \$85,000.00.

This concluded the report of the Litigation Reports Oversight Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

Representative Lanny Fite moved that the report of the Litigation Reports Oversight Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Representative DeAnn Vaught to present the report of the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee (Exhibit E.8). Representative Vaught reported that the subcommittee met on November 12, 2019, and approved two items: a rainy day fund transfer to the Department of Agriculture, and a rainy day fund transfer to the Department of Commerce-Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. The subcommittee also reviewed several items, including the following: cash fund appropriation increase requests; budget classification transfer request(s) for fiscal year 2020; a miscellaneous federal grant appropriation request for fiscal year 2020; and various reports assigned to the subcommittee. The subcommittee held one (1) item, listed in the report as Section D, Item 1 - a miscellaneous federal grant appropriation request from the Arkansas Department of Health. Representative Vaught stated that questions regarding the held item has since been answered.

This concluded the report of the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee.

Representative DeAnn Vaught moved that the report of the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee be adopted, with the removal of the hold of Item D.1 – Department of Health from the report.

Senator Jimmy Hickey, Jr. made a motion to remove Item B.1 –Rainy Day Fund Request - Department of Agriculture, from the report until further questions can be asked and answered by the department, in regards to the Buffalo River project.

Representative DeAnn Vaught revised her motion to state that the report of the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee be adopted, with

the removal of the hold of Item D.1 – Miscellaneous Grant - Department of Health and to remove Item B.1 –Rainy Day Fund Request - Department of Agriculture from the report.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Senator Jimmy Hickey for questions. Senator Hickey expressed his concerns with the distribution of the Buffalo River Conservation funding. Co-Chair Bledsoe requested Secretary Wes Ward of the Department of Agriculture and Jake Bleed, Department of Finance & Administration, Office of Budget to come forward to respond to questions. Secretary Ward stated the funding would be held in a cash fund with the Department of Agriculture, and once priorities are identified, with the coordination of the Governor, the Buffalo River Conservation Committee, and legislators, funds would then be released by the Department of Agriculture and not the Buffalo River Conservation Committee and its subcommittees as the letter indicates. Senator Hickey requested to make a motion to provide clarity that the funds for the Buffalo River Conservation projects would be distributed by the Department of Agriculture, only. Senator Hickey further expressed his concerns with the language of “including but not limited to” in the letter. Secretary Wes Ward responded that the language was to allow the subcommittees and the people of that area to set ideas, identify priorities, and suggest solutions and how the money will be spent toward those projects. Secretary Ward stated the Department of Agriculture would still have the authority to ensure the funds are not used outside the intended parameters. Secretary Ward further stated that with the oversight committees in place, the Department of Agriculture will be able to provide a full report on the actions of the Buffalo River Conservation Committee and any funds disbursed.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Senator Terry Rice for questions. Senator Rice expressed a special thanks to Secretary Wes Ward and others on behalf of Senator Missy Irvin. Senator Rice also expressed his concerns with the “including but not limited to” language and the non-existence of the “subcommittees”. He asked Secretary Ward if the subcommittees will be established within the next month or if the Legislative Council would need to hold the funding another month until the subcommittees have been established. Secretary Ward responded that the subcommittee members should be known by the next month, as the Governor and the legislators in the Watershed area are identifying subcommittee members, but no one has yet been notified. Senator Rice continued with further comments.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Representative Jim Wooten for questions. Representative Wooten asked Secretary Ward if there had been any constituent contact with individuals in the Watershed area. Representative Wooten further asked, moving forward, how will the process involving certain projects flow. Secretary Ward informed members there had been two (2) public meetings held in Jasper, Arkansas and Marshall, Arkansas. He further stated the Department of Agriculture made contact with all agricultural organizations including the USDA, in order to inform everyone of what the Department of Agriculture is doing. Secretary Ward further stated the subcommittee(s) will meet, submit proposals to the 4-member committee, and receive guidance, in which the committee would then disburse funds, making sure it is used on the highest priorities. Representative Wooten further asked who will establish the rules relative to how the subcommittee will function and how many subcommittees will be established. Secretary Ward responded there will be one subcommittee established by the Governor and Legislators. Once that subcommittee is established, those members can then decide if there should be additional subcommittees established.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Representative Keith Slape for comments. Representative Slape expressed his gratitude to Secretary Wes Ward for conducting meetings and involving the public

from the Buffalo River area. Representative Slape continued, stating there are other issues along the river on state land, not federal land, that he would like to see addressed. Representative Slape also suggested allowing the Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committees to oversee the Buffalo River Conservation Committee to ensure the monies are diligently spent and spent on the proper projects.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Senator Kim Hammer for questions. Senator Hammer asked if the Department of Agriculture had access to the one million dollar fund until June 2022. Jake Bleed, DFA, responded that the funding is two parts - one part is funded by the transfer of funds from the Rainy Day fund, and once the transfer is complete, those funds would carry over; the other part is funded by appropriations, which would expire by the end of that fiscal year. Senator Hammer continued, asking if monies received from other programs would be time sensitive. Secretary Ward responded stating he has not received any information from private donors that those funds would have an expiration date.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Representative Jack Ladyman for comments. Representative Ladyman stated there are two major industries and a national treasure along that river - agriculture and recreation, which brings a lot of people to that area. Representative Ladyman hopes that the formation of the Buffalo River Conservation Committee will protect the river, the economy, and help the people make improvements.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Senator Hickey for a motion.

Senator Jimmy Hickey, Jr. made a motion to review Item B.1 –Rainy Day Fund Request - Department of Agriculture, with the understanding that the Department of Agriculture will be the entity to distribute the funds and not the Buffalo River Conservation committee or any of its subcommittees. Also, to have an understanding that the disbursements of the funds will be completely transparent and thoroughly vetted, per Secretary Wes Ward’s comments.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Representative John Payton for comments on the motion. Representative Payton expressed his concerns with the establishment of a new bureaucracy, adding that the new bureaucracy will have to continue to be funded in the future that and will put a strain on the state’s budget. After further comments, Representative Payton stated he will vote against the motion.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Senator Breanne Davis for comments. Senator Davis stated that with follow up conversations from the people who attended the agricultural meetings, she gathered that they were all cautiously optimistic about the upcoming projects. After further comments, Senator Davis expressed she was in favor of the motion.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Representative Fredrick Love for questions. Representative Love requested clarification of the intent of use for the one million dollar fund awarded to the Department of Agriculture. Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Senator Jimmy Hickey to respond. Senator Hickey informed Representative Love, the way it is written by the Governor and the Department of Agriculture, is that the funds would be for voluntary best management practices for farmers and landowners, improvements to waste water and septic systems for cities and counties within the watershed, and reduction of sediment runoff for unpaved roads within the watershed.

Senator Jimmy Hickey, Jr. restated the motion to approve Item B.1 –Rainy Day Fund Request - Department of Agriculture, with the understanding that the Department of Agriculture will be the entity to distribute the funds and not the Buffalo River Conservation Committee or any of its subcommittees. Also, to have an understanding that the disbursements of the funds will be completely transparent and thoroughly vetted, per Secretary Wes Wards comments.

This concluded the report of the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee, and there were no further questions.

Co-Chair Bledsoe clarified that there was no motion necessary for Representative DeAnn Vaughnts' request; therefore Item D.1 – Miscellaneous Grant - Department of Health is considered removed.

Senator Jimmy Hickey moved that the report of the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Policy-Making Subcommittee

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Senator Linda Chesterfield to present the report of the Policy-Making Subcommittee (Exhibit E.9). Senator Chesterfield reported that the Policy-Making Subcommittee met on November 13, 2019, where members were to hear from Senator Jane English to enter into a consulting agreement with APA Consulting. Senator Cecile Bledsoe made a motion to authorize the Bureau of Legislative Research to enter into negotiations with Schuls & Associates for a Consulting Services Agreement incorporating the terms and conditions of RFP No. BLR-190003 and Schuls' proposal in response to the RFP with the ALC-Executive Subcommittee having final approval of the contract. The approval of the Consultant Services Agreement with APA consulting is contingent upon approval by the House and Senate Education Committees of use of both Schuls & Associates and APA Consulting to provide education adequacy consulting services to the committees under the RFP. The Bureau of Legislative Research shall not be authorized to enter either of these consultant services contracts unless approval of both contracts is agreed upon by the House and Senate Education Committees.

Senator Chesterfield stated, for her, it was the first time she witnessed a subcommittee to substitute its will for that of two standing committees that are in charge of determining adequacy, and further telling those standing committees that, 'it's *our* way or there will be no way'. Senator Chesterfield stated she moved to support the recommendation of the education standing committees.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Senator Jonathan Dismang for questions. Senator Dismang asked of Senator Jane English, Co-Chair, Senate Education Committee, what was the recommendation that came from the Education Committees. Senator Chesterfield explained that it was a motion made to accept the APA Consulting contract only, which she recommends as a motion. However, the recommended motion of the ALC-Policy Making Subcommittee was to accept both contracts, which would add an additional \$500,000.00 to the cost of the consulting services.

Senator Linda Chesterfield restated her motion to accept the recommendation of the standing committees on Education. The motion was seconded by Senator Joyce Elliott.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Senator Bob Ballinger for a substitute motion.

Senator Bob Ballinger made a substitute motion to adopt the report of the ALC-Policy Making Subcommittee. The motion was seconded.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Senator Chesterfield to speak on the substitute motion. Senator Chesterfield expressed her concerns with subcommittees substituting their will for a standing committee's recommendation, which she stated has never happened before. She asked that the body reconsider voting for the substitute motion made by Senator Ballinger.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Senator Bob Ballinger for comments. Senator Ballinger provided an explanation of why he chose to support the substitute motion. He added, when it comes to spending over 2 billion dollars of state taxpayer's money, do people want one contract with some information, or two contracts, receiving more information and ideas.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Senator Joyce Elliott for debate. Senator Elliott stated that as Vice-Chair of the Senate Education Committee, she can agree that the committee met twice, having a very contentious meeting, in order to reach an agreement as to which consultant they would recommend to do the education study. She further stated that once a contract was chosen, it was sent to ALC-Policy Making Subcommittee, not to change what the standing committees debated and decided on, but rather to determine if the chosen consultant would be funded or recommended to the Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC). She further explained that it is not proper for the item to be sent to ALC for further debate and discussion and especially not to change the recommendation of the standing committees. Senator Elliott stated it was not fair to the members of the standing committees to have endured the hours of listening and making a decision, only to have their decision thrown out and substituted by members on a subcommittee, who may not have attended those meetings at all.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Representative Josh Miller for comments. Representative Miller explained that he was in favor of the motion made by Senator Ballinger. He expressed his concern with Senator Chesterfield, Co-Chair, ALC - Policy Making Subcommittee, presenting a motion that was not the will of the subcommittee.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Senator Kim Hammer for questions. Senator Hammer requested the amount of both contracts. Marty Garrity, Director, Bureau of Legislative Research stated the contract for APA Consulting is for \$659,580.00 and the contract for Schuls and Associates is for \$499,236.00. Senator Hammer asked if there was originally a contract that totaled an amount estimated at \$900,000.00. Marty Garrity stated that there was an initial proposal that came out of the Education Committees with APA Consulting for a little over \$900,000.00.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Senator Bond for questions. Senator Bond stated in ALC-Policy Making, he suggested to approve one contract for now, and if necessary, approve the other at a later time. Senator Bond expressed his disagreement with the ALC - Policy Making *telling* the standing committees that they have to hire both consulting companies or neither.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Senator Keith Ingram for questions. Senator Ingram asked if Representative Bruce Cozart, Co-Chair, House Education Committee, was comfortable with the original recommendation that came from his committee.

Representative Cozart stated that there was concern with the initial bid of the APA Consulting contract, due to the amount of money being requested. He explained that the RFP was re-vamped and some adjustments were made, and from that the Committees received two bids, one from APA Consulting and another from Schuls and Associates. He further stated that choosing two consultants would result in a lot more work for the committee, versus choosing one at a time. Representative Cozart stated that after hearing both consultants present their plans, the committees made a decision, which he supported because he recognizes the immediate need for education adequacy.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Representative John Payton for questions. Representative Payton asked if it was mandatory to have a study done and what was the timeframe for getting it done. Director Marty Garrity, BLR, stated it was not mandatory that a study be done, and under the RFP, the study must be completed by December 2020.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Senator Bob Ballinger for closing comments.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Senator Chesterfield for closing comments.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Senator Dismang for comments. After comments, Senator Dismang expressed that his recommendation for ALC was to vote no on the initial motion by Senator Chesterfield, as well as vote no on the substitute motion presented by Senator Bob Ballinger.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Representative Jim Dotson for comments. Representative Dotson stated that if the motion made by Senator Ballinger passed, it would not be the final step in the process, as the Education Committees would have the opportunities to continue to discuss and bring the item back to the ALC - Policy Making Subcommittee and the Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC). Representative Dotson made further comments, speaking in favor of Senator Ballinger's motion.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Senator Joyce Elliott and Senator Kim Hammer for further debate. Senator Hammer asked what were the major differences in the presentations presented by Schuls and Associates and APA Consulting-why wasn't Schuls and Associates chosen when they had the lesser bid amount. Representative Bruce Cozart responded that in his opinion, it was due to lack of experience from Schuls and Associates.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Representative Dan Douglas. Representative Douglas requested to read the motion that was originally passed out of ALC-Policy Making Subcommittee to have on record.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Representative LeAnne Burch for questions. Representative Burch expressed her concerns with the timeline of the RFP. Marty Garrity informed Representative Burch that both consultants are aware that the terms of the initial RFP would remain the same, and both consultants agreed.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Senator Bart Hester for a motion.

Senator Bart Hester made a motion for immediate consideration. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Senator Bob Ballinger restated his substitute motion.

Upon a showing of three hands, a roll call, by division, was initiated, starting with Senate members. The Senate roll call resulted in a ten (10) to twelve (12) vote against the motion, and therefore the motion failed.

Co-Chair Bledsoe stated the original motion made by Senator Chesterfield was now back on the floor.

Upon a showing of three hands, a roll call, by division, was initiated, starting with House members. The House roll call resulted in a six (6) to nineteen (19) vote against the motion, and therefore the motion failed.

Review Subcommittee

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Senator Scott Flippo to present the report of the Review Subcommittee (Exhibit E.10). Senator Flippo reported that the Review Subcommittee met on November 12, 2019, and reviewed and approved all of the agenda items including methods of finance, grants, and service contracts. Senator Flippo reported that no items were held. This concluded the report of the Review Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

Senator Scott Flippo moved that the report of the Review Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Representative Jim Wooten to present the report of the Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee (Exhibit E.11). Representative Wooten reported that the Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee met on November 12, 2019, and reviewed communications, reports, and requests from several state agencies and institutions of higher education. This concluded the report of the Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

Representative Jim Wooten moved that the report of the Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded, and passed by voice vote.

Highway Commission Review and Advisory Subcommittee

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Representative Ron McNair to present the report of the Highway Commission Review and Advisory Subcommittee (Exhibit E.13). Representative McNair reported that the Highway Commission Review and Advisory Subcommittee met on November 13, 2019, and reviewed reports provided by the Arkansas Department of Transportation regarding:

- Progress of each public road construction project of \$10 million or more as required by ACA § 27-65-107(a)(19);
- Annual expenditure of revenues from additional wholesales sales tax on fuel as required by ACA § 26-64-104(b).

This concluded the report of the Highway Commission Review and Advisory Subcommittee.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Representative Dan Sullivan. Representative Sullivan requested the Department of Transformation and Shared Services to come forward to respond to question(s) regarding open space concept and how information is protected within an open office.

Secretary Amy Fecher, Department of Transformation & Shared Services came forward to respond to questions. Representative Sullivan asked if a plan was in place to ensure that confidential documents and information will remain confidential in regards to the open space concept. Secretary Fecher stated that if there is any information that needs to be locked up, it will be. She further stated that there will be “shared” spaces that employees can utilize for privacy with meetings, phone calls, etc.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Representative Jim Wooten for questions. Representative Wooten asked Secretary Fecher if she thought that the agency would receive any monies from the state surplus sales of the inventory of older furniture. Secretary Fecher stated the intent is not get rid of all the furniture, that it would first be made available to other state agencies, agencies who operate with old inventory, as a way to refresh the furniture and send the older furniture to the state’s Marketing & Redistribution agency. Secretary Fecher stated the open space concept is being utilized in an attempt to reduce the square footage that is used by state agencies, saving the state money in the future.

Representative Ron McNair moved that the report of the Highway Commission Review and Advisory Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded, and passed by voice vote.

Occupational Licensing Review

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Senator Keith Ingram to present the report of the Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee (Exhibit E.15). Senator Ingram reported that the Subcommittee heard testimony regarding the following items:

- Presentation on initiative to review occupational authorizations and Red Tape Reduction Task Force, with testimony from Senator John Cooper and Mr. Buddy Johnson, Parliamentarian, Arkansas House of Representatives.
- Motions and recommendations that can be made under A.C.A. § 10-3-318, with testimony from Ms. Michelle Davenport, Legislative Attorney, Bureau of Legislative Research.
- Review of reports from occupational authorization entities:

-Arkansas State Board of Acupuncture and Related Techniques (ABSART), with testimony from Mr. Martin Eisele, Licensed Acupuncturist and Board President, and Ms. Maria Velasco Salling, Administrator, ABSART.

-Arkansas Fire Protection Licensing Board, with testimony from Mr. Jim Holub, Chairman, Mr. Jason Wills, Secretary, and Ms. Pat White, Administrator, Arkansas Fire Protection Licensing Board, and Ms. Sara Farris, Assistant Attorney General, Arkansas Attorney General.

This concluded the report of the Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

Senator Keith Ingram moved that the report of the Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded, and passed by voice vote.

Review of Communications

Co-Chair Bledsoe referred members to the communications listed as Exhibit G.1 through Exhibit G.14 on the agenda, and noted that action by the Legislative Council is needed for the following item(s):

1. Department of Commerce:

- a. Arkansas Development Finance Authority, Request for the Legislative Council's review of the following Program Fact Sheets, submitted pursuant to A.C.A. § 15-5-212(b).
 - i. **Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds** (Hickory View Apartments), Series 2019, in the amount of \$18,000,000;
 - ii. **Taxable Economic Development Bonds** (ADFA Guarantee Program), Series 2019, in the amount of \$7,395,000;
 - iii. **Industrial Development Revenue Bonds** (Big River Steel Project), Series 2019, in the amount of \$487,000,000;
 - iv. **Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds** (Maple Place Apartments), Series 2019, in the amount of \$18,900,000;
 - v. **Economic Development Revenue Refunding Bonds** (Methodist Health), Series 2019, in the amount of \$3,435,000;

Co-Chair Bledsoe asked if there were any questions or discussion in regards to Exhibit G.6a(i-v.) There were no questions.

Co-Chair Jeff Wardlaw moved that the Program Fact Sheets of the Department of Commerce, Arkansas Development Finance Authority, be adopted and filed as reviewed. The motion was seconded, and passed by voice vote.

Co-Chair Bledsoe asked if there were any questions or discussion regarding the other items listed under Communications.

Co-Chair Bledsoe recognized Senator Bob Ballinger for discussion. Senator Ballinger requested to remove and hold Exhibit G.14 (d,f) until the next Arkansas Legislative Council meeting:

Reports on the "course of action" implemented to ensure compliance with FORUM Act 184 of 2019 from Higher Education Two (2) Year and Four (4) Year Institutions, submitted pursuant to A.C.A. §6-60-1008:

- d. **Southern Arkansas University;**
- f. **University of Arkansas System.**

After brief discussion between Senator Bob Ballinger and Senator Linda Chesterfield, there were no questions concerning the other communications listed on the agenda.

Adjournment

At 10:56 a.m., the meeting was adjourned as there was no further business to come before the Legislative Council.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Senator Cecile Bledsoe
Co-Chair, Senate

Marty Garrity
Executive Secretary