

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

September 18, 2020

Senator Cecile Bledsoe, Co-Chair	Representative Jeff Wardlaw, Co-Chair
Senator Terry Rice, Vice Co-Chair	Representative Jim Dotson, Vice Co-Chair
Senator Jim Hendren	Representative Matthew J. Shepherd
Senator Bill Sample	Representative Kenneth B. Ferguson

September 17, 2020 Meeting

We, the Executive Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council, met at 12:30 p.m. on September 17, 2020 in Room B of the Big MAC Building, Little Rock, Arkansas. Vice Co-Chair Jim Dotson called the meeting to order and saw a quorum of members present.

Consideration of An Emergency Rule

Department of Commerce, Arkansas Insurance Department – Mr. Booth Rand, Managing Attorney, AID:

- 1) ***Rule 121: Declaratory Orders*** - *This proposed regulation implements Ark. Code Ann. §25-15-206 which states that each agency shall provide by rule for the filing and prompt disposition of petitions for declaratory orders as to the applicability of any rule, statute, or order enforced by it.*

Vice Co-Chair Dotson recognized Mr. Booth Rand, Managing Attorney, AID, and Mr. Jim Brader, General Counsel, AID, to present the request for review and approval of the emergency rule. After a brief presentation, Vice Co-Chair Dotson recognized members for questions.

Following discussion, Vice Co-Chair Dotson stated that without objection, the proposed emergency rule is reviewed and approved, and the review and approval is effective upon adjournment of Arkansas Legislative Council, September 18, 2020.

Use of Committee Funds

Vice Co-Chair Dotson recognized Ms. Marty Garrity, Director, Bureau of Legislative Research to report on the use of committee funds. Ms. Garrity stated that in response to preparation for the next regular session, the current Big MAC committee rooms would not accommodate the members/members of the public in social distancing. Therefore, a conference room on the fourth

floor of the Big MAC building has been looked at as an option for use during regular session. The estimated cost would be \$176,302. Ms. Garrity further stated, House Management met last week to request the use of Bureau of Legislative Research funds to be allocated for this project. The Bureau of Legislative Research is appropriated \$205,000 for committee room expenses each year.

Vice Co-Chair Dotson recognized members for questions. Vice Co-Chair Dotson also stated for the record, that Representative Jeff Wardlaw has joined the meeting via conference call. After questions from members, Vice Co-Chair Dotson recognized Representative Matthew Shepherd for a motion.

Representative Shepherd made a motion to proceed with the expenditure for \$176,302 from the BLR appropriation, with the condition that the fourth floor elevators of the Big MAC building be used by members only and the fourth floor entryway be used by the public, with security clearance station for regular session.

The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Audio/Visual System in Big MAC Committee Rooms

Vice Co-Chair Dotson recognized Ms. Garrity to report on the audio and visual system in the Big MAC committee rooms. Ms. Garrity stated that with the plan to use Committee Room B as the overflow room, the estimate for that option is \$25,163.

Vice Co-Chair Dotson recognized Representative Shepherd for a motion. Representative Shepherd made a motion to proceed with the option for using *J. Stanley*.

The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Ms. Garrity further stated that in order to bring the committee room equipment up to date, with 2020 technologies, as the systems are about 10 years old, the estimate, also from *J. Stanley* is \$398,675. *J. Stanley* will work during House Orientation week.

Vice Co-Chair Dotson recognized members for questions. He also recognized Mr. Timothy Carlock, Assistant Director, Information Technology, Bureau of Legislative Research, to respond to questions.

After questions from members, Vice Co-Chair Dotson recognized Senator Cecile Bledsoe for a motion. Senator Bledsoe made a motion to approve the items that were presented.

The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Ms. Garrity stated, for clarification on the Plexiglas for Committee Room A, there was previous miscommunication with *Southern Office Services* and therefore, a revised quote was given at \$34,978 instead of the \$23,000 that was originally quoted. Ms. Garrity further stated that *Ace Glass* came and provided an estimate for the same work at \$22,470. Ms. Garrity requested to move forward with *Ace Glass*.

Vice Co-Chair Dotson recognized members for questions. After questions from members, Vice Co-Chair Dotson recognized Senator Terry Rice for a motion.

Senator Rice made a motion to approve the request and proceed with Ace Glass.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Cecile Bledsoe and Representative Jim Dotson, Executive Subcommittee Co-Chair and Vice Co-Chair

CB/JD/MG:sla