

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

**October 28, 2021**

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Senator Terry Rice, Co-Chair	Representative Jeff Wardlaw, Co-Chair
Senator Missy Irvin, Vice Co-Chair	Representative Jim Dotson, Vice Co-Chair
Senator Cecile Bledsoe	Representative Matthew J. Shepherd
Senator Jimmy Hickey, Jr	Representative Kenneth B. Ferguson

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**September 22, 2021 Meeting**

We, the Executive Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council, met at 9:00 a.m. on September 22, 2021 in Room A of the Big MAC Building, Little Rock, Arkansas. Co-Chair Jeffrey Wardlaw called the meeting to order and saw a quorum of members present.

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Dr. Samuel Bledsoe, MD, Arkansas Heart Hospital, to provide insight and comments on Bariatric Surgery. After the presentation, Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized members for questions.

Co-Chair Wardlaw then recognized Mr. Dwight Davis, Evidence-Based Prescription Drug Program (EBRx) - UAMS College of Pharmacy, to present. After the presentation, Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized members for questions.

Allowing public comments on the Employee Health Benefits Study, Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Mr. Mike Hernandez, Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators (AAEA), Ms. Richelle Brittain, state retiree, Mr. John Vinson, Arkansas Pharmacists Association (APA), and Ms. Julie Bates, Arkansas State University (ASU) System, to speak on the subject matter. After comments, Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized members for questions.

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

**September 23, 2021 Meeting**

We, the Executive Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council, met at 9:00 a.m. on September 23, 2021 in Room A of the Big MAC Building, Little Rock, Arkansas. Co-Chair Jeffrey Wardlaw called the meeting to order and saw a quorum of members present.

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Ms. Stacy Hurst, Secretary, Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism (DPHT), Ms. Leslie Fiskens, Chief of Legislative Affairs, DPHT, Mr. Jim Hudson, Deputy Director of Operations & General Counsel, Department of Commerce, and Mr. Steven Porch, Chief Legal Officer, Department of Commerce, to present for consulting services for a statewide broadband plan through the Arkansas Department of Commerce.

After the presentation, Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized members for questions.

**After questions, Co-Chair Rice made a motion to delay the vote on the request from Arkansas Department of Commerce until the following week. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

Allowing public comments on the Employee Health Benefits Study, Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Ms. Tracey Ann Nelson, Executive Director, Arkansas Education Association (AEA) to present on educator healthcare. After the presentation, there were no questions.

Co-Chair Rice then recognized Mr. Patrick Klein, Mr. Matt Kersting, Mr. Ken Vieira, Mr. Nick Taylor, and Ms. Kirsten Schatten, of The Segal Group, Inc. (appearing via *ZOOM*) to present and discuss recommendations on the Employee Health Benefits Study. After the presentation, Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized members for questions.

**After questions, Co-Chair Wardlaw moved, without objection, the Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR) is to begin drafting bills that would mimic all recommendations presented by the consultant (The Segal Group, Inc.). At the October 6, 2021 meeting, all bill drafts will be provided for consideration, and motions would then be considered for which bills to adopt.**

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

### **September 29, 2021 Meeting**

We, the Executive Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council, met at 3:00 p.m. on September 29, 2021 in Room B of the Big MAC Building, Little Rock, Arkansas. Co-Chair Jeffrey Wardlaw called the meeting to order and saw a quorum of members present.

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized recognized Ms. Stacy Hurst, Secretary, Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism (DPHT), Mr. Larry Walther, Secretary, Department of Finance & Administration (DF&A), and Mr. Mike Preston, Secretary, Department of Commerce, to present for consulting services for a statewide broadband plan through the Arkansas Department of Commerce. After the presentation, there were no questions.

**Co-Chair Wardlaw moved, without objection, the contract for Arkansas Department of Commerce, Arkansas Economic Development Commission, is reviewed.**

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

### **September 30, 2021 Meeting**

We, the Executive Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council, met at 8:30 a.m. on September 30, 2021 in Room B of the Big MAC Building, Little Rock, Arkansas. Co-Chair Jeffrey Wardlaw called the meeting to order and saw a quorum of members present.

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Mr. Greg Brown, Director, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Response Systems (OPERS) and Ms. Laura Shue, General Counsel, Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) to present a proposed emergency rule for Arkansas Department of Health for Emergency Medical Services. After the presentation, there were no questions by members.

**Co-Chair Wardlaw moved, without objection, the proposed emergency rule is reviewed and approved and the review and approval shall be effective at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, October 2, 2021.**

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

**October 4, 2021 Meeting**

We, the Executive Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council, met at 12:00 p.m. on October 4, 2021 in Room B of the Big MAC Building, Little Rock, Arkansas. Co-Chair Jeffrey Wardlaw called the meeting to order and saw a quorum of members present.

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Ms. Sue Tedford, Director, and Mr. David Dawson, General Counsel, State Board of Nursing, Arkansas Department of Health, and Mr. Matt Gilmore, Arkansas Department of Health - Boards and Commissions to present a proposed emergency rule for Arkansas Department of Health - State Board of Nursing for Chapter Two (2) - Licensure: RN, LPN, and LPTN. After the presentation, Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized members for questions.

**After questions, Co-Chair Wardlaw moved, without objection, the proposed emergency rule is reviewed and approved and the review and approval shall be effective at 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, October 6, 2021.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Terry Rice and Representative Jeff Wardlaw, Executive Subcommittee Co-Chairs

TR/JW/MG:sla