

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

June 17, 2022

The Arkansas Legislative Council met at 9:00 a.m., Friday, May 20, 2022, in Committee Room A of the Big Mac Building, Little Rock, Arkansas. Co-Chair Jeffrey Wardlaw called the meeting to order and recognized a quorum of members present. The members present are listed on the sign-in sheets. Senator Missy Irvin was recognized to give the morning prayer.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Co-Chair Wardlaw referred members to the minutes of the last Legislative Council meeting held on April 22, 2022 (Exhibit C), and asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

Co-Chair Wardlaw moved that the minutes of the April 22, 2022 meeting of the Legislative Council be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Revenue Report

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Mr. Kevin Anderson, Assistant Director, Bureau of Legislative Research - Fiscal Division, to present the April 2022 General Revenue Report (Exhibit D). Mr. Anderson reported, collections of Gross General Revenues year-to-date of \$7.2 billion, have increased \$794 million or 12% above last fiscal year. For the month of April 2022, the Net General Revenues increased by \$345.7 million over last April. The April 2022 collections above the forecast are at \$531.9 million, in which the majority are a result of income tax collections. Mr. Anderson further reported, the state is \$987.9 million above forecast with two (2) months remaining in the fiscal year. After questions from members, this concluded the April 2022 General Revenue report.

Report of the Executive Subcommittee

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Co-Chair Terry Rice to present the report of the Executive Subcommittee (Exhibit E). Co-Chair Rice reported that the Executive Subcommittee met on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, and reviewed and approved an emergency rule for the Department of Public Safety. The approval of the emergency rule was reported to all members of the ALC. This concluded the report of the Executive Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

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

Reports of the Standing Subcommittees

Administrative Rules Subcommittee

Co-Chair Rice recognized Senator Kim Hammer to present the report of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee (Exhibit F.1). Senator Hammer reported that the Administrative Rules Subcommittee met on Wednesday, May 18, 2022. The subcommittee reviewed and filed a quarterly report submitted by the Department of Corrections – Arkansas Parole Board. The subcommittee also filed the May 2022 monthly written agency updates, pursuant to Act 595 of 2021. The subcommittee reviewed an agency rule recommending an expedited process for occupational licensure, pursuant to Act 135 of 2021. At the state agency's request, one (1) rule by the Department of Agriculture – State Plant Board was pulled from consideration prior to the meeting. One (1) rule by the Department of Agriculture - Veterinary Medical Examiner's Board, concerning veterinary telehealth and telemedicine was held for consideration by the full ALC. However, the agency informed the subcommittee's staff they want to pull the request and present it to the subcommittee on a future date. All other rules were reviewed and approved, with Senator Jimmy Hickey, Jr., President Pro Tempore, noting his objection to the rules of the Department of Agriculture - Arkansas Milk Stabilization Board. This concluded the report of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

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

Higher Education Subcommittee

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Representative David Whitaker to present the report of the Higher Education Subcommittee (Exhibit F.5). Representative Whitaker reported that the Higher Education Subcommittee met on Thursday, May 19, 2022, and heard testimony from the Arkansas State University System regarding the following items: Engineering Biomolecules in Plant Cells for Biomedical and Industrial Applications; use of Waste Materials in Highway Construction – Challenges and Economical Opportunities; and Collaborative Opportunities for Materials and Manufacturing Research. This concluded the report of the Higher Education Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

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

Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Senator Jonathan Dismang to present the report from the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee (Exhibit F.8). Senator Dismang reported that the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee met on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, and received reports, reviewed requests, and approved the following items: various temporary appropriations; American Rescue Plan Act appropriations; infrastructure appropriations; and Rainy Day Fund transfers. This concluded the report of the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

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

Review Subcommittee

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Representative Ken Bragg to present the report from the Review Subcommittee (Exhibit F.10). Representative Bragg reported that the Review Subcommittee met on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, and reviewed methods of finance, discretionary grants, and services contracts. No items were held. This concluded the report of the Review Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

Representative Bragg 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 Wardlaw recognized Senator David Wallace to present the report of the Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee (Exhibit F.11). Senator Wallace reported the Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee met on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, and reviewed and approved requests listed as Items 1 – 10, with an exception of Item 7, which was held in the subcommittee for further review, following the Joint Performance Review (JPR) Committee meeting scheduled in June 2022. This concluded the report of the Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

Senator David Wallace moved that the report of the Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Lottery Oversight Subcommittee

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Representative Gary Deffenbaugh to present the report of the Lottery Oversight Subcommittee (Exhibit F.12). Representative Deffenbaugh reported that the Lottery Oversight Subcommittee met on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, heard testimony and reviewed the following items: Department of Finance & Administration (DF&A), Office of Arkansas Lottery Director's Report; the proposed FY2023 annual budget; and term contracts. This concluded the report of the Lottery Oversight Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

Representative Deffenbaugh moved that the reports of the Lottery Oversight Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Occupational Licensing Review

Co-Chair Wardlaw recognized Senator Cecile Bledsoe, Co-Vice Chair, to present the report of the Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee (Exhibit F.15). Senator Bledsoe reported that the Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee met on Thursday, May 19, 2022, and received reports on occupational authorizations from the Arkansas Securities Department, Arkansas State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, Arkansas Real Estate Commission, and also the

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

Senator Bledsoe 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 Wardlaw referred members to the communications listed on the agenda (Item H). The items required no action to be taken, and there were no questions from members.

New Interim Study Proposals and Interim Resolutions

Co-Chair Wardlaw referred members to the ISP's listed on the agenda as Items J.01, J.02, and J.03, and noted action by the Legislative Council is needed for those items.

Co-Chair Wardlaw then recognized Senator Cecile Bledsoe for a motion to batch and approve Items J.01, J.02, and J.03, and refer them to the proper committee or subcommittee. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

There were no questions from members.

J.01. Interim Study Proposal 2021-123, by Representative Charlene Fite, an Act defining "child sexual abuse material" in the Arkansas code; making technical corrections; and for other purposes. *(ISP 2021-123 was referred to the House Judiciary Committee).*

J.02. Interim Study Proposal 2021-124, by Senator Greg Leding, an Act to establish the Clean Electricity Reporting Act; to require electric utility companies to calculate and report carbon intensity; and for other purposes. *(ISP 2021-124 was referred to the Senate Insurance and Commerce Committee).*

J.03. Interim Study Proposal 2021-125, by Senator Greg Leding, an Act to create the Clean Electricity Jobs Task Force; and for other purposes. *(ISP 2021-125 was referred to the Senate Insurance and Commerce Committee).*

Adjournment

At 9:09 a.m., the meeting was adjourned as there was no further business to come before the Legislative Council.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Representative Jeffrey Wardlaw
Co-Chair, House

Marty Garrity
Executive Secretary