

ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Senator Kim Hammer
Co-Chair

Representative Mark H. Berry
Co-Chair

JOINT PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

May 31, 2024

The Honorable Scott Flippo, Co-Chair
The Honorable Les D. Eaves, Co-Chair
ALC Review
State Capitol Building, Room 315
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Senator Flippo and Representative Eaves:

The Joint Performance Review Committee met during the month of April 2024 to investigate and hear reports regarding the Arkansas Board of Corrections. During the meeting on April 23, 2024, a motion was passed to submit the following findings and recommendations to the ALC – Review Subcommittee as a result of the investigation:

- The Board of Corrections operated with disregard for public transparency, including the apparent violations of the Freedom of Information Act and open meeting laws;
- The Board of Corrections lacked both financial and statutory authority to enter into a contract for legal services with Mr. Abtin Mehdizadegan;
- There were perceived and discussed violations of laws; and
- There was an acknowledged lack of process for Board of Corrections meetings and the procurement process.

As such, this Committee recommends, in the event that a contract between the Board of Corrections and Mr. Abtin Mehdizadegan for legal services rendered under the engagement letter, signed December 22, 2023, is presented for review and ratification before the ALC – Review Subcommittee, that the ALC – Review Subcommittee not review the contract.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions concerning this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Hammer/cl
Senator Kim Hammer
Co-Chair

Mark Berry/cl
Representative Mark H. Berry
Co-Chair