1.   **Background**

Act 943 of 2019, created the Data-Sharing and Data-Driven Decision-Making Taskforce, tasked the Legislatures to discover how the State can produce a quick and efficient data-driven delivery system that would enable up-to-the-moment responses to legislative branch and executive branch inquiries that have impeded the policy-making process and ultimately cost the taxpayers financially. The Data-Sharing and Data-Driven Decision-Making Task Force had sunset on December 31, 2019, and a report was presented to the Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC).

On January 17, 2020, the ALC created the ALC Special Subcommittee on Data-Sharing and Data-Driven Decision-Making Subcommittee. The purpose of the special subcommittee is to continue the work of the Task Force pursuant to ALC Rule 5.(c). The subcommittee shall study and examine the possibility of implementing a shared services model for statewide data-sharing. The subcommittee shall submit a final report of its recommendations, including any proposed legislation to the Legislative Council at is December 2020 meeting. The ALC Data-Sharing and Data-Driven Decision-Making Subcommittee will expire on December 31, 2020.

II.   **Work of the Subcommittee in 2020**

The subcommittee held its first meeting on July 20, 2020, and heard testimony from State officials with data-driven experience who provided information for how a data hub would provide quality services for the State of Arkansas. The following testimonies were presented.

Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS)

Joshua McGee, the State's Chief Data Officer (CDO) stated that Act 912 of 2017 established the Data and Transparency Panel and the Chief Data Officer position. Act 936 of 2019 required the Data and Transparency Panel to develop a unified longitudinal system that links existing agency information for education and workforce outcomes. SLDS links administrative data across state agencies to improve policy, programs, and practices through evidence-based collaboration. Mr. McGee explained that currently a data governance framework along with SLDS infrastructure are being built to help facilitate linking data. The SLDS infrastructure will be implemented in the state data center and managed by the Division of Information Services.

Economic Securities Report

Kris Jones, Assistant Director, Division of Workforce Services (DWS), provided a summary of the 2019 Economic Securities Report. It is created from citizens' data, combining education and wage data to provide Arkansans and State Government entities a data-driven look at the current economic conditions of the State. A specific data statistic that is analyzed in the report is employment of an induvial by program after completion. DWS stated they are looking into ways that the report can have more up-to-moment data, because currently the data is delayed by three months. A factor that they are currently trying to tie into the report is how past experience can affect the ability to be hired.

Nathan Smith, Research Director, Department of Commerce (DOC), testified to the subcommittee on how it currently utilizes the Economic Securities Report. DOC stated when working with higher education institutions they analyze the report when issuing a workforce

analysis over a specific program. The workforce analysis will inform the institution with data over what program can offer to students in the form of wages and employment opportunities.

Arkansas Department of Health

Dr. Austin Porter from the Department of Health (ADH), testified how his agency gathers Covid-19 data through data-driven techniques. Dr. Porter stated the first positive virus case in Arkansas was verified on March 11, 2020. Through contact tracing, the department has since been able to identify virus clusters. ADH currently provides the charts and numbers that the Governor uses for his daily briefings. On the ADH website, there is a dashboard that states active cases by county, along with protective guidelines for how citizens can protect themselves.

III.   **Recommendations**

Recommendations will be added after the ALC Data-Sharing and Data-Driven Decision-Making Subcommittee meeting on November 13, 2020.