

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
House Committee on Education
Meeting Jointly
Monday, January 8, 2024
1:30 PM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Jane English, Chair; Linda Chesterfield, Vice Chair; Joshua Bryant, Breanne Davis, Jim Dotson, Kim Hammer, Greg Leding, Matt Stone; Representatives Brian S. Evans, Chair; Keith Brooks, Vice Chair; Sonia Eubanks Barker, Rick Beck, Bruce Cozart, Hope Duke, Charlene Fite, Lanny Fite, Denise Garner, Grant Hodges, Ron McNair, Stephen Meeks, DeAnn Vaught, Steven Walker, and Carlton Wing

Other members present: Senators Alan Clark, Ben Gilmore, Bart Hester, Mark Johnson, Fredrick Love, Dan Sullivan; Representatives Stan Berry, Nicole Clowney, Denise Ennett, Jon Eubanks, Kenneth Ferguson, Jack Fortner, Jimmy Gazaway, Tippi McCullough, Aaron Pilkington, David Ray, Jay Richardson, Jamie Scott, and Joy Springer

Senator English called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve the November 6, 2023, and November 7, 2023, Meeting Minutes [Exhibits B1-B2]

Without objection, the minutes were approved.

Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) – Proposed Emergency Rule Governing Tutoring Grants [Exhibit C]

Andres Rhodes, Chief Legal Counsel, ADE, and Courtney Salas-Ford, Chief of Staff, ADE, explained the proposed emergency rule governing literacy and high impact tutoring grants.

Representative Meeks motioned to recommend to the Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC) Executive Subcommittee review and approval of the proposed emergency rule. Without objection, the motion carried.

Senator Bryant motioned to recommend to the ALC Executive Subcommittee review and approval of the proposed emergency rule, seconded by Senator Hammer, and the motion carried.

Presentation of Adequacy Study Process [Exhibit D]

Julie Holt, Administrator, Policy Analysis and Research Section, Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR), gave an overview of the adequacy study information to be presented and how the data is compiled.

Discussion of Legal Framework of Adequacy [Exhibit E]

Taylor Loyd, Legislative Attorney, BLR, presented information on the legal framework of the adequacy studies. She discussed the constitutional duties, educational adequacy, equity, and the matrix funding.

Presentation of Adequacy History [Exhibits F1-F2]

Elizabeth Bynum, Legislative Analyst, Policy Analysis and Research Section, BLR, presented information on the history of adequacy and the purpose of the adequacy studies.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

DRAFT