EXHIBIT B

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Meeting Jointly
Monday, October 26, 2026
10:00 AM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Alan Clark, Chair; Blake Johnson, Terry Rice, and Clarke Tucker; Representatives Carol Dalby, Chair; Howard M. Beaty, Jr., Andrew Collins, Cindy Crawford, Jon S. Eubanks, Jimmy Gazaway, Justin Gonzales, Ashley Hudson, Tippi McCullough, Shad Pearce, Matthew J. Shepherd, and Joy Springer

Other members present: Senators Steve Crowell, Bryan King, Fred Love, Jamie Scott, and Dan Sullivan; Representatives Fred Allen, Glenn Barnes, Lincoln Barnett, Cameron Cooper, James Eaton, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Steve Hollowell, Roger Lynch, Jessie McGruder, Aaron Pilkington, Bart Schulz, Tara Shephard, Trey Steimel, Jeff Wardlaw, and Jeremy Wooldridge

Senator Clark called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve August 25, 2026, and September 30, 2026, Meeting Minutes [Exhibits B1-B2]
Sen. Blake Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Sen. Rice, and the motion carried.

Discussion of Draft Legislation [Exhibits D1-D4]
Sen. Tucker introduced four draft bills to be presented during the 2027 Legislative Session. These bills cover potential solutions to reduce the need for prison beds in Arkansas, including home detention in lieu of parole and post-release supervision, an amendment to the Comprehensive Criminal Record Sealing Act of 2013, pre-release custody credits, and opportunities for a person on community supervision to earn credit for early discharge of a sentence.

Discussion of How to Reduce the Number of Prison Beds Needed in Arkansas [Exhibits C1-C6]
Timothy Head, President and CEO, Unify.US, presented ideas on compassionate release and geriatric release for inmates based on age and disability.

Shaena Fazal, Chief of State Advocacy, Alliance of Safety and Justice, and Gary Mohr, Former Director, Ohio Dept of Rehabilitation and Corrections, stated that inmates participating in evidence-based programs including education and mental health services while in prison reduces recidivism and that non-violent offenders benefit from community supervision at a fraction of the cost of incarceration.

Chelsea Murphy, Senior Campaign Strategist, The Clean Slate Initiative, explained the benefits of The Clean Slate Initiative in helping former offenders seal their records and obtain employment, education, and housing upon release

Aswad Thomas, VP, ASJ & National Director, Crime Survivors Speak, relayed his personal experience with gun violence and advocacy for victim services as well as the need for rehabilitative skills and support for former inmates when returning to society.

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David Safavian, Chief Operating Officer, Unify.US, talked about national crime prevention using the federal First Step Act and how it compares to the draft legislation presented in committee and its potential outputs and outcomes.

Hon. Sarah Capp, District Judge, Charleston Division, 7th State Judicial District, spoke about their Smart Justice Program that provides treatment, housing, employment and educational opportunities at the district level to reduce recidivism rates. Janet Camp, Director of Judicial Services, Restore Hope, and Paul Chapman, Executive Director, Restore Hope, explained HopeHub, a collaborative case-management platform, that conducts risk assessments and helps connect former inmates with the resources they need to avoid reoffending and to become a productive member of society.

Jimmy McGill, Co-Founder, Next Step Recovery Housing, explained the benefits that his program provides and the potential benefit available to inmates by offering his services state-wide through additional state funding.

Dina Nash, Criminologist, explained the need for more social services that could prevent criminal behavior before it happens, her first-hand experience with behavior changes in inmates who go through treatment programs while incarcerated, and that inmates with mental illness or have suffered a brain injury can change with the proper early diagnosis and care.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

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