

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
Meeting Jointly
Monday, July 28, 2025
1:30 PM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Missy Irvin, Chair; Dave Wallace, Vice Chair; Fredrick J. Love, John Payton, and Clint Penzo; Representatives Jeff Wardlaw, Chair; Jeremy Wooldridge, Vice Chair; Fred Allen, Glenn Barnes, Mary Bentley, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Dolly Henley, Wayne Long, Stephen Magie, Kendra Moore, Mark Perry, Aaron Pilkington, Jay Richardson, Ryan A. Rose, and Bart Schulz

Other members present: Senators Steve Crowell, Jim Dotson, Jane English, Bryan King, and Jim Petty; Representatives Lincoln Barnett, Stan Berry, Keith Brooks, Nick Burkes, Rebecca Burkes, Bruce Cozart, Jon S. Eubanks, Brian Evans, Jesse McGruder, Joy Springer, Kendon Underwood, Steven Walker, and Carlton Wing

Representative Wardlaw called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve the July 7, 2025, and July 9, 2025, Meeting Minutes [Exhibits B1-B2]

Representative Magie made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Senator Love, and the motion carried.

Discussion of Making America Skilled Again Initiative [Exhibit C]

Cody Waits, Executive Director, Arkansas Workforce Connections, Department of Commerce, and Eddie Thomas, Director, Office of Employment and Training, Department of Commerce, discussed the current structure of the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act and potential changes from consolidating 11 workforce development programs into the Make America Skilled Again grant program.

Consideration for Adoption of Interim Study Proposals (ISP) [Exhibits D1-D6]

Representative Wardlaw stated that, without objection, ISP 2025-027, ISP 2025-028, ISP 2025-029, ISP 2025-030, ISP 2025-031, and ISP 2025-044 are adopted for study and referred to the Human Services Subcommittees.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.