

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
Meeting Jointly
Wednesday, January 7, 2026
1:00 PM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Missy Irvin, Chair; Fredrick J. Love, John Payton, Clint Penzo; and Representatives Jeff Wardlaw, Chair; Jeremy Wooldridge, Vice Chair; Fred Allen, Glenn Barnes, Mary Bentley, Cameron Cooper, Denise Jones Ennett, Kenneth Ferguson, Dolly Henley, Jack Ladyman, Kendra Moore, Mark Perry, and Aaron Pilkington

Other members present: Senators Alan Clark, Matt Stone, and Dan Sullivan; Representatives Lincon Barnett, Howard Beaty, Jr., Harlan Breaux, Nick Burkes, Rebecca Burkes, Joey L. Carr, Paul Childress, Jon S. Eubanks, Roger Lynch, Jessie McGruder, Stetson Painter, Johnny Rye, Joy Springer, Tracy Steele, and Trey Steimel

Representative Wardlaw called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve the December 8, 2025, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]

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

Consideration for Adoption of Interim Study Proposals (ISP) [Exhibit C1-C2]

Representative Bentley made a motion to adopt and accept the Chair's recommendation to refer ISP 2025-079 and ISP 2025-080 to the Labor and Environment Subcommittees, seconded by Representative Wooldridge, and the motion carried.

Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services, Review of Rule, Updates to the Personal Care and Arkansas Independent Assessment Provider Manuals [Exhibit D]

Jay Hill, Director, Division of Aging Adult and Behavioral Health Services (DAABHS), DHS; Debora Inman, Assistant Director, DAABHS, DHS; and Melissa Weatherton, Director, Specialty Medicaid Services, DHS; presented rule updates that would repeal current Personal Care and Arkansas Independent Assessment Provider Manuals and issue new streamlined versions of the manuals. In response to the Committees' questions, the rule was pulldown by the agency.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.