

**MINUTES**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR**  
**House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor**  
**Meeting Jointly**  
**Thursday, May 21, 2026**  
**1:30 PM**  
**Room A, MAC**  
**Little Rock, Arkansas**

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Committee members present: Senators Missy Irvin, Chair; Dave Wallace, Vice-Chair; Scott Flippo, and Ricky Hill; Representatives Jeff Wardlaw, Chair; Jeremy Wooldridge, Vice-Chair; Glenn Barnes, Mary Bentley, Cameron Cooper, Denise Jones Ennett, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Dolly Henley, Jack Ladyman, Stephen Magie, Mark Perry, Aaron Pilkington, Jay Richardson, and Ryan A. Rose

Other members present: Senators Justin Boyd, Mark Johnson and Jamie Scott; Representatives Wade Andrews, Lincoln Barnett, Howard Beaty, Jr., Joey Carr, Bruce Cozart, Carol Dalby, Jon Eubanks, Denise Garner, Steve Hollowell, Lane Jean, Tippi McCoullough, Mark McElroy, Jessie McGruder, Jon Milligan, Jason Nazarenko, Johnny Rye, Tara Shephard, Joy Springer, Trey Steimel, DeAnn Vaught, and Steven Walker

Representative Wooldridge called the meeting to order.

**Consideration to Approve the April 1, 2026, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]**

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

**Discussion of Homeless Policies, Trends and Opportunities for Arkansas to Lead [Exhibit C]**

Paul Webster, Senior Fellow, Cicero Institute; Ben Goodwin, Executive Director, Our House; Karen Phillips, Chief Operations Officer, Restore Hope; Chief Danny Baker, Chief of Police, Fort Smith Police Department; Heather Webb, Fort Smith Director, Arkansas Family Alliance; and Rusti Holwick, Executive Director, Western Arkansas Counseling and Guidance Center, Inc; discussed opportunities for Arkansas to lead in the implementation of policies addressing homelessness.

**Department of Energy and Environment (E&E), Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Review of Rule, 8 CAR pt. 60 “Solid Waste Management Rules” [Exhibit D]**

Bailey Taylor, Chief Administrator of Environment, DEQ Director, E&E and Amanda Land, Chief Counsel, E&E; presented the rule requiring review of any expenditures in excess of \$200,000 from the Landfill Post-Closure Trust Fund.

Representative Wooldridge stated that, without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

**Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), Division of Health Related Boards, Arkansas State Board of Nursing (ASBN), Review of Rule, 17 CAR pt. 120. General Provisions [Exhibit E]**

Ashley Davis, Director, ASBN, ADH; David Dawson, General Counsel, ASBN, ADH; and Matt Gilmore, Public Health Programs Policy Coordinator, ADH; presented the rule adding Dialysis Patient Care Technician fees for Initial Licensure and Renewal of Registration.

Representative Wooldridge stated that, without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

**ADH, Division of Health Related Boards, ASBN, Review of Rule, 17 CAR pt. 121. Licensure: Registered Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse, and Licensed Psychiatric Technician Nurse [Exhibit F]**

Ashley Davis, Director, ASBN, ADH; David Dawson, General Counsel, ASBN ADH; and Matt Gilmore, Public Health Programs Policy Coordinator, ADH; presented the rule updating the list of information that is required to be updated with the board.

Representative Wooldridge stated that, without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

**ADH, Division of Health Related Boards, ASBN, Review of Rule, 17 CAR pt. 122. Registered Nurse Practitioner [Exhibit G]**

Ashley Davis, Director, ASBN, ADH; David Dawson, General Counsel, ASBN ADH; and Matt Gilmore, Public Health Programs Policy Coordinator, ADH; presented the rule updating the list of information that is required to be updated with the board.

Representative Wooldridge stated that, without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

**ADH, Division of Health Related Boards, ASBN, Review of Rule, 17 CAR pt. 123. Advanced Practice Registered Nurse [Exhibit H]** Ashley Davis, Director, ASBN, ADH; David Dawson, General Counsel, ASBN ADH; and Matt Gilmore, Public Health Programs Policy Coordinator, ADH; presented the rule updating the parameters of when an APRN may sign death certificates and pronounce death.

Representative Wooldridge stated that, without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

**ADH, Division of Health Related Boards, ASBN, Review of Rule, 17 CAR pt. 124. Delegation [Exhibit I]**

Ashley Davis, Director, ASBN, ADH; David Dawson, General Counsel, ASBN ADH; and Matt Gilmore, Public Health Programs Policy Coordinator, ADH; presented the rule updating the delegation of certain tasks to Unlicensed Healthcare Workers.

Representative Wooldridge stated that, without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

**ADH, Division of Health Related Boards, ASBN, Review of Rule, 17 CAR pt. 126. Rules of Procedure [Exhibit J]**

Ashley Davis, Director, ASBN, ADH; David Dawson, General Counsel, ASBN ADH; and Matt Gilmore, Public Health Programs Policy Coordinator, ADH; presented the rule outlining a process for filing and considering petitions for declaratory orders.

Representative Wooldridge stated that, without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

**ADH, Division of Health Related Boards, ASBN, Review of Rule, 17 CAR pt. 127. Medication Assistant-Certified [Exhibit K]**

Ashley Davis, Director, ASBN, ADH; David Dawson, General Counsel, ASBN ADH; and Matt Gilmore, Public Health Programs Policy Coordinator, ADH; presented the rule regarding Certified Medication Assistants which includes adding additional training requirements and regulations.

Representative Wooldridge stated that, without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

**ADH, Division of Health Related Boards, ASBN, Review of Rule, 17 CAR pt. 130. Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee [Exhibit L]**

Ashley Davis, Director, ASBN, ADH; David Dawson, General Counsel, ASBN ADH; and Matt Gilmore, Public Health Programs Policy Coordinator, ADH; presented the rule adding Clinical Nurse Specialists to the Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee.

Representative Wooldridge stated that, without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

**ADH, Division of Health Related Boards, ASBN, Review of Rule, 17 CAR pt. 131. Dialysis Patient Care Technicians [Exhibit M]**

Ashley Davis, Director, ASBN, ADH; David Dawson, General Counsel, ASBN ADH; and Matt Gilmore, Public Health Programs Policy Coordinator, ADH; presented the rules aimed at assisting in the implementation of the newly created Registered Dialysis Patient Care Technician Act.

Representative Wooldridge stated that, without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

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

DRAFT