

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON CITY, COUNTY, AND LOCAL AFFAIRS
House Committee on City, County, and Local Affairs
Meeting Jointly
Wednesday, August 13, 2025
3:30 PM

Rogers Convention Center, Ambassador Ballroom A-C, 3303 S. Pinnacle Hills Parkway
Rogers, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Gary Stubblefield, Chair, and Jim Petty, Vice-Chair; Representatives Justin Gonzales, Chair, Bart Schulz, Vice-Chair, Alyssa Brown, Karilyn Brown, Jon Milligan, Aaron Pilkington, and Johnny Rye.

Other members present: Senators Jim Dotson, Missy Irvin and Bryan King; Representatives Hope Duke, Austin McCollum, David Ray, Randy Torres, Kendon Underwood, and Steve Unger

Senator Stubblefield called the meeting to order.

Presentation on Property Rights and Constitutional Considerations in State Policy Issues

Kileen Lindgren, Policy Manager, Pacific Legal Foundation, gave a presentation on promoting access to housing by protecting property rights.

Welcome Remarks- Association of Arkansas Counties

Chris Villines, Executive Director, Association of Arkansas Counties gave welcoming remarks regarding the Association of Arkansas Counties conference.

Discussion of Arkansas Department of Corrections (DOC) Capacity Needs and Projections

Lindsay Wallace, Secretary, DOC, discussed the department's capacity and staffing needs. Tawnie Rowell, Chief Legal Counsel, DOC, and Dexter Payne, Director, Division of Correction, DOC, discussed the percentages of incarcerated individuals by offense type, plans for facility development and expansion, and the associated costs of housing inmates. Wendy Ware, Senior Vice President, justice services, CGL Companies, gave a presentation on long-term trends in the Arkansas prison population.

Discussion of the Impact of Overcrowding on Public Safety in Arkansas Counties

Hobe Runion, Sheriff, Sebastian County; Jay Cantrell, Sherriff, Washington County; John Staley, Sheriff, Lonoke County; and Shawn Holloway, Sheriff, Benton County discussed staffing shortages and the impact that holding inmates for other agencies, resulting in overcrowding and limiting capacity to manage other jurisdictional cases.

Discussion of the Impact of Overcrowding on County Budgets

Honorable Rusty McMillon, County Judge, Greene County; Honorable Barry Moehring, County Judge, Benton County; Honorable Troy Tucker, County Judge, Clark County; and Honorable Matt Brumley, County Judge, Saline County discussed how overcrowding has impacted county budgets and their ability to execute warrants in their respective jurisdictions.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.