

**MINUTES**  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE AND COMMERCE**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE AND COMMERCE**  
**MEETING JOINTLY**  
**Tuesday, March 12, 2024**  
**3:00 PM**  
**Room B, MAC**  
**Little Rock, Arkansas**

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Committee members present: Senators Ricky Hill, Chair; Justin Boyd, and Mark Johnson; Representatives John Maddox, Chair; Karilyn Brown, Vice Chair; Denise Jones Ennett, Jon S. Eubanks, Brian S. Evans, Deborah Ferguson, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Grant Hodges, Jack Ladyman, Robin Lundstrum, Jay Richardson, and Steven Walker

Other members present: Senators Alan Clark and Blake Johnson; Representatives Joey Carr, Cameron Cooper, Denise Garner, DeAnna Hodges, Wayne Long, Mindy McAlindon, Richard McGrew, Mark Perry, and Trey Steimel

Senator Hill called the meeting to order.

**Consideration of a Motion to Approve the July 13, 2023, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]**  
Without objection, the minutes were approved.

**Update from Arkansas Insurance Department**

Alan McClain, Commissioner, Arkansas Insurance Department (AID), Russ Galbraith, Chief Deputy Commissioner, AID and Jimmy Harris, Manager of Product Compliance, AID, discussed the state of the insurance market in Arkansas for homeowners, focusing on increasing property insurance premiums, insolvency of insurance carriers due to high loss ratios, lifting of bulletin 1723 and announcing the coming study by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners that will provide data driving affordability and availability of insurance for consumers.

**Update from Arkansas Insurance Companies on Rates, Deductibles, Roof Replacements, Recent Storm Claims and Other Relevant Issues [HANDOUTS D1 - D2]**

1. Robert Gordon, Senior Vice President, Policy, Research, International, American Property Casualty Insurance Association, discussed the challenges insurance companies are facing including loss of capital, inflation, weather and demographics.
2. Ward Tisdale, Regional Vice President, Southwest, National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies, discussed the state of rising insurance costs, suggesting updating building codes, litigation reform, regulations, and building policy.
3. Michael Sowell, Vice President of Underwriting, Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Arkansas, Inc., explained some reasons for rising insurance and reinsurance premium costs.
4. Jason Tennant, President, Chief Lending Officer, CS Bank, discussed the concerns and impact of rising costs in the banking and mortgage business of Eureka Springs.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.