

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Meeting Jointly
Tuesday, September 20, 2022
10:00 AM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Trent Garner; Vice-Chair, Bob Ballinger, Cecile Bledsoe, and Jane English; Representatives Dwight Tosh, Chair; Justin Gonzales, Vice-Chair; Rick Beck, Gary Deffenbaugh, Jim Dotson, Lane Jean, Jack Ladyman, Fredrick Love, Stephen Meeks, Marcus Richmond, Nelda Speaks, and Jeff Wardlaw

Other members present: Representatives Fred Allen, Stan Berry, Harlan Breaux, Cameron Cooper, Cindy Crawford, Denise Ennett, Jon Eubanks, Kenneth Ferguson, Vivian Flowers, Jack Fortner, Mike Holcomb, Julie Mayberry, David Ray, Johnny Rye, and Jamie Scott

Representative Tosh called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve the Minutes from the August 19, 2021; September 20, 2021; September 23, 2021; and September 27, 2021, Meetings [Exhibits C1-C4]

Representative Beck made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Richmond, and the motion carried.

Discussion of Act 421 of 2021 [Exhibit D]

Representative Stephen Meeks, provided information on Act 421 of 2021 which created a study of the use of certain election technology. Ms. Leslie Bellamy, Director of Elections, Office of the Secretary of State; Mr. Michael Harry, Director of Legal, Office of the Secretary of State; and Mr. Daniel Shults, Director, State Board of Election Commissioners; discussed the capabilities of current election technology and possible concerns the public may have regarding Act 421.

Representative Tosh stated a report would be submitted for review as required by Act 421 without objection.

Discussion of Interim Study Proposal (ISP) 2021-096 [Exhibits E1-E3]

Representative Julie Mayberry; and Dr. Russell Jones, Dean, College of Business and Economic Development, Arkansas Tech University; presented research focused on the effectiveness and cost savings of using work-from-anywhere strategies for state employees.

Discussion and Consideration for Adoption of ISP 2021-114 [Exhibit F]

Representative Justin Gonzales; Leslie Fiskin, Chief of Legislative Affairs, Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism; and Carlton Saffa, Chief Market Officer, Saracen Casino Resort; provided an update on efforts to change the name of the Toltec Mounds Archaeological State Park to the Plum Bayou Mounds Archaeological State Park.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.