

DRAFT MINUTES
JOINT PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE
Thursday, July 6, 2023
10:00 AM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Kim Hammer, Co-Chair; Joshua Bryant, Vice-Chair; Justin Boyd, Jonathan Dismang, Scott Flippo, Jim Petty, Terry Rice, and Dan Sullivan; Representatives Mark H. Berry, Co-Chair; Mary Bentley, Rebecca Burkes, Cindy Crawford, Les D. Eaves, Brian S. Evans, Tony Furman, Ashley Hudson, Robin Lundstrum, Marcus E. Richmond, Carlton Wing, and Jim Wooten

Other members present: Senators Alan Clark, Jim Dotson, Missy Irvin, and Fredrick Love; Representatives Fred Allen, Joey Carr, Cameron Cooper, Denise Ennett, Jon Eubanks, Kenneth Ferguson, Vivian Flowers, Zack Gramlich, Shad Pearce, Aaron Pilkington, Scott Richardson, and Dwight Tosh

Senator Hammer called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve the June 22, 2023, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]

Senator Bryant made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Crawford, and the motion carried.

Discussion of Act 766 of 2023, Regarding the Interference of Petition Signatures [Exhibits C1-C8] [Handouts 1 and 2]

Tom Pollard, Blitz Canvassing; John Burris, Capitol Advisors Group; and Hans Stiritz, Fair Play for Arkansas; gave an overview of their complaints against Arkansas Tourism Alliance, including election and petition fraud in Pope County and other areas of the state.

Dustin McDaniel, Attorney, McDaniel Wolff, PLLC, explained his role working with Arkansas Tourism Alliance and what tools were used to educate voters about the petition. He spoke about the background of some of the canvassers working for Fair Play Arkansas and the results from the signatures that were gathered and reviewed by the Secretary of State.

David Couch, Director, Arkansas Tourism Alliance, explained the process used to educate voters about the petitions.

Kristin Foster, Arkansas Tourism Alliance, stated she asked a canvasser, that was working for Fair Play Arkansas, to throw away unsigned petitions and that she offered employment to the canvasser with Arkansas Tourism Alliance.

Representative Richmond made a motion requesting that the Attorney General's Office, the Prosecutor Coordinator's Office, the Arkansas State Police, and the State Board of Election Commissioners conduct any necessary investigations and take any necessary criminal or civil action, including without limitation a referral to local prosecutors if warranted, regarding the actions identified in this meeting, including without limitation the destruction of petitions, conversations with canvassers, or any other conduct determined to be inappropriate. The motion also required a status report on each investigation by September 1, 2023, seconded by Senator Flippo, and the motion carried.

Representative Wing made a motion to authorize the Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR) to work with the Ethics Commission to develop research in order to guide the Legislature moving forward and authorize the BLR to work with the Racing Commission to address potentially harmful actions by any licensees, seconded by Representative Crawford, and the motion carried.

Other Business

Senator Dotson highlighted the new requirements for petition signatures.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

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