

## MINUTES

### JOINT PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 11, 2024

1:00 PM

Room A, MAC

Little Rock, Arkansas

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Committee members present: Senators Kim Hammer, Co-Chair; Joshua Bryant, Vice-Chair; Jonathan Dismang, Jim Petty, and Dan Sullivan; Representatives Mark H. Berry, Co-Chair; David Ray, Vice-Chair; Brandon Achor, Mary Bentley, Rebecca Burkes, Bruce Cozart, Brian S. Evans, Tony Furman, Jimmy Gazaway, Robin Lundstrum, Kendra Moore, Marcus E. Richmond, Tara Shephard, Joy Springer, Carlton Wing, and Jim Wooten

Other members present: Senators Tyler Dees, Ben Gilmore, Bart Hester, Matt McKee, and Matt Stone; Representatives Wade Andrews, Howard Beaty, Jr., Matt Brown, Joey Carr, Frances Cavanaugh, Cameron Cooper, Hope Duke, Jon Eubanks, Kenneth Ferguson, Steve Hollowell, Jack Ladyman, Mindy McAlindon, Brit McKenzie, Stetson Painter, Jay Richardson, Ryan Rose, Bart Schulz, Trey Steimel, DeAnn Vaught, and Danny Watson

Representative Berry called the meeting to order.

Representative Richmond made a motion to subpoena Abtin Mehdizadegan, Attorney, Hall Booth Smith, P.C. Attorneys at Law, Little Rock Office, and Pastor Alonza Jiles, Board Member, Arkansas Board of Corrections, to appear for testimony, seconded by Senator Sullivan, and the motion carried.

#### **Consideration to Approve the April 4, 2024, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]**

Representative Bentley made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Cozart, and the motion carried.

#### **Discussion of Arkansas Board of Corrections (BOC) [Exhibits C1-C2]**

Brandon Tollett, Board Member, BOC, and Rev. Tyrone Broomfield, Vice Chairman, BOC, discussed the hiring of Mr. Mehdizadegan as the attorney for the BOC. Mr. Tollett stated that the BOC voted to rectify the hiring process of Mr. Mehdizadegan.

Chad Brown, Chief Financial Officer, Arkansas Department of Corrections (DOC), and Wade Hodge, Chief of Staff, DOC, discussed their involvement with the Board of Corrections. Mr. Brown stated that state procurement law had been violated in the contract between the BOC and Mr. Mehdizadegan. Mr. Hodges and Mr. Brown drafted a memo outlining the infraction and the proper procedures to follow in accordance with state procurement laws.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.