

MINUTES
JOINT PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE
Monday, October 19, 2026
10:00 AM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Terry Rice, Co-Chair; Jamie Scott, Vice-Chair; Joshua Bryant, Jane English, Scott Flippo, Ricky Hill, and Dan Sullivan; Representatives Bruce Cozart, Co-Chair; Howard M. Beaty, Jr., Mary Bentley, Matt Brown, Rebecca Burkes, Frances Cavanaugh, Cindy Crawford, Denise Garner, Mike Holcomb, Wayne Long, Aaron Pilkington, and David Ray

Other members present: Senators Justin Boyd, Alan Clark, Mark Johnson, and Fred Love; Representatives Fred Allen, Lincoln Barnett, Keith Brooks, Alyssa Brown, Denise Ennett, Jon Eubanks, Roger Lynch, Jessie McGruder, Jay Richardson, Johnny Rye, Joy Springer, and Dwight Tosh

Senator Rice called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve October 27, 2025, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]

Rep. Garner made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Rep. Cozart, and the motion carried.

Discussion of Act 276 of 2021: An act to amend the process of evaluation of state boards and commissions; to require submission of a report; to recommend the abolition of a state board or commission for failure to submit a report; and for other purposes [Exhibits C1-C2]

Colby Little, Legislative Committee Analyst, Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR), and Joi Leonard, Legal Research and Drafting Chief Legal Counsel, BLR, explained the purpose of Act 276 of 2021 and informed the committee of the state boards and commissions who have, and have not, submitted an attendance report over the past two fiscal years to the committee prior to the day of meeting.

Discussion of Issues Concerning the Arkansas Ethics Commission

Leslie Fiskens, Secretary, Arkansas Department of Shared Administrative Services; Jill Barham, Interim Director, Arkansas Ethics Commission (AEC); Jason Tolbert, Chairman, AEC; and Kay Barnhill, Director, Arkansas Office of Personnel Management; addressed questions about transparency and the need for more positions at the AEC and the timeline for replacing the position of interim director with an individual who will serve as a full-time director.

Discussion of Allegations Pertaining to the Quitman School District

Audie Alumbaugh, Citizen, and Melanie Fox, Citizen, presented allegations stating that the Quitman School District improperly used district finances for Medicaid transportation, former students were hired as employees, a sexual assault case occurring in a boys' locker room had been improperly handled by administration, and other cases pertaining to the school superintendent.

Michael Stacks, Superintendent, Quitman School District (QSD), provided further context on, and responded to, the allegations made by Ms. Alumbaugh and Ms. Fox. Nathan Lindsey, School Board Member, QSD, expressed the reasons why he decided to run for the school board and what he hopes to accomplish as a member.

Rep. Burkes made a motion to refer this discussion to the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee for further consideration at their next meeting, seconded by Rep. Long, and the motion carried.

Sen. Hill made a motion to refer this discussion to the Office of the Attorney General of Arkansas and request that the Attorney General's Office conducts an open investigation of the Quitman School District superintendent's actions including harassment, intimidation, and any other actions the Attorney General's Office deems appropriate to address in their investigation, seconded by Sen. Bryant, and the motion carried.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

DRAFT