

## MINUTES

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGING, CHILDREN AND YOUTH, LEGISLATIVE AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Friday, July 12, 2024

1:00 PM

Room 151, State Capitol  
Little Rock, Arkansas

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Committee members present: Representatives Julie Mayberry, Vice-Chair; Joey Carr, Tony Furman, Shad Pearce, Tara Shephard, and Trey Steimel

Other members present: Senator Dan Sullivan; Representatives David Ray, and Danny Watson

Representative Mayberry called the meeting to order.

#### **Review of Arkansas Department of Education - Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Plan [Exhibit B]**

Tim Cain, Director, Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation, Department of Education, gave a presentation on Act 987 of 2021, highlighting the implementation of a plan aimed at ensuring ADA compliance in all school facilities. This plan addresses accessibility issues in school buildings, particularly those constructed before 2004. This Act mandates that public school facilities and public charter schools conduct thorough assessments to guarantee compliance with ADA standards.

#### **ADA Compliance Review of Arkansas State Parks [Exhibit C]**

Shea Lewis, Secretary, Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism, and Jeff King, Deputy Director, Arkansas State Parks, Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism, provided a presentation on how they are making parks more accessible for people with disabilities through acquisition of new mobility devices and updating lodging facilities.

#### **Discussion of Adaptive Recreation - Arkansas Game and Fish [Exhibit D]**

Mary Beth Hatch, Chief of Education, Game and Fish Commission, and Hollie Sanders, Assistant Chief of Education, Game and Fish Commission, discussed the reduced licensing prices for disabled residents and veterans. They also discussed the All-Terrain wheelchair program, aiming to empower mobility-impaired individuals by promoting outdoor independence.

#### **Discussion of Building Compliance with ADA [Exhibits E1- E2]**

Dennis Free, Fire Marshal, State Fire Marshal's Office, and Diane Hughes, Construction Maintenance Coordinator, State Fire Marshal's Office, presented the challenges of enforcing ADA requirements in businesses, such as installing changing tables for the mobility-impaired.

#### **IRS Tax Credits and Accessibility [Exhibit F]**

Jon Taylor, Executive Director, Arkansas Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, discussed tax incentives available to businesses for installing equipment to support the physically disabled.

**Testimony of ADA Compliance in Arkansas [Exhibit G]**

Audrey Crump, Ms. Arkansas Wheelchair 2021, and Brooke Booth, Student, testified about a life-altering car accident that left Audrey paralyzed from the waist down, shedding light on its profound impact on their families accessibility. Ms. Booth also spoke on a Girls State bill she drafted and spoke on how she thought the state could improve the lives of those with disabilities.

With no other business the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

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