

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2011-203

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3 REQUESTING THAT THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REFER TO THE
4 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGING, CHILDREN AND YOUTH, LEGISLATIVE &
5 MILITARY AFFAIRS A STUDY OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ARKANSAS
6 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, THE STATE'S VETERANS HOMES'
7 PROCEDURES, SAFETY, FUNDING, AND THE STANDARDS OF CARE, AND
8 ALTERNATIVES FOR PROVIDING PROPER CARE AND TREATMENT FOR THE
9 STATE'S MILITARY VETERANS.

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11 WHEREAS, the state's veterans have proudly served our country and
12 earned the benefits provided by the federal government and the State of
13 Arkansas; and

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15 WHEREAS, the state has recently learned and recent news headlines
16 illustrate that:

17 (1) The Little Rock Veterans Home collected unauthorized moneys
18 from our state's war-wounded and disabled veterans who reside at the Little
19 Rock Veterans Home;

20 (2) That the Little Rock Veterans Home may have felt compelled
21 to improperly collect these moneys due to inadequate funding to maintain the
22 home; and

23 (3) The Little Rock Veterans Home improperly collected more than
24 \$580,000.00 in maintenance fees and is unable to repay the wrongfully
25 charged veterans who reside at the home; and

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27 WHEREAS, the state has a veteran population of over 257,625 and the
28 proper administration of benefits, funding, care, and facilities for the
29 state's veterans is important to the state; and

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31 WHEREAS, all feasible solutions and alternatives should be considered
32 to cure any deficiencies in the state's veterans homes or administration of
33 benefits,

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35 NOW THEREFORE,

36 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH

1 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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3 THAT the House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative &
4 Military Affairs study the administration of the Arkansas Department of
5 Veterans Affairs and the state's veterans homes' procedures, safety, funding,
6 and standard of care, including without limitation the:

7 (1) Mechanisms implemented by the Arkansas Department of
8 Veterans Affairs and the state's veterans homes to provide appropriate care
9 to the state's veterans;

10 (2) Present and alternative funding sources for the state's
11 veterans homes, including without limitation federal, state, and private
12 funding;

13 (3) Standard of care administered by physicians, nurses, and
14 staff at the state's veterans homes;

15 (4) Administrative procedures of the Arkansas Department of
16 Veterans Affairs and the state's veterans homes;

17 (5) Alternatives in living arrangements in lieu of or in
18 addition to the state's veterans homes that may better serve the state's
19 veterans;

20 (6) Physical integrity and safety of the structures and
21 locations of the state's veterans homes; and

22 (7) Social, economic, and other relevant demographics of the
23 state's veterans residing or eligible to reside at the state's veterans
24 homes.

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26 Respectfully submitted,

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30 Representative Jane English
31 District 42

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36 By: JAM/NJR