

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**OF THE**  
**ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ALC)**

**AUGUST 15, 2025**

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The Arkansas Legislative Council met at 9:00 a.m., Friday, June 20, 2025, in Committee Room A of the Big MAC Building, Little Rock, Arkansas. House Co-Chair Les D. Eaves called the meeting to order and recognized a quorum of members present. Representative Les Warren was recognized for the morning prayer.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Co-Chair Eaves referred members to the minutes of the last Legislative Council meeting held on May 22, 2025 (Exhibit C) and asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

**Representative Rick Beck moved that the minutes of the May 22, 2025, meeting of the Legislative Council be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

**Point of Personal Privilege**

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Representative Lane Jean and Senator Jonathan Dismang to present a House Citation and Senate Citation to Mr. Kevin Anderson, Assistant Director, Fiscal Division, Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR), for 30 plus years of service to state government. Kevin joined BLR in 1992 and will retire on June 30, 2025. Much deserved applause and appreciation was given to Kevin for his dedication and excellent work in state government and to members and his staff.

**Revenue Report**

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Dr. Carlos Silva, Legislative Economist, Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR), to present the May 2025 General Revenue Report (Exhibit D). Dr. Silva reported that the collections of Gross General Revenues year-to-date are approximately \$7,437.84 million, a decrease of \$372.7 million, or 4.8% below the \$7,810.54 million collected last fiscal year-to-date. The Net General Revenue available for distribution of \$5,904.9 million, decreased \$244.6 million, or 4% from the \$6,149.53 million available for distribution in May 2024.

Dr. Silva further stated, the Cumulative Deviation of the forecast is slightly above the projection at \$17.1 million for May 2025. Reaching the end of June, the current collections are below the collection amount from last year-to-date but there are still some major collections forthcoming for June. He continued, stating the state is close to reaching the RSA within the next few days based on preliminary numbers from the last few days. This concluded the May 2025 General Revenue report.

Co-Chair Eaves recognized members for questions. Mr. Jim Hudson, Secretary, Department of Finance & Administration (DF&A) was recognized to make further comments and provide clarification on statements made during questioning.

### Report of the Executive Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Senate Co-Chair Senator Ben Gilmore to present the report of the Executive Subcommittee (Exhibit E). Co-Chair Gilmore reported that the Executive Subcommittee met on Monday, June 9, 2025, and approved the premiums and deductibles for the State Captive Insurance Program, as presented by Stephens Insurance and Perr & Knight. The Subcommittee also authorized BLR to move forward with a contract with a claims administration agreement for the captive. For both the contract and the premiums and deductibles, the subcommittee authorized the ALC co-chairs to finalize the authorization by emergency action. The emergency action reports are attached to the Executive Subcommittee report, as required by ALC Rule 16. The Executive Subcommittee also adopted a motion to cancel the regular ALC meeting for July 2025 and to authorize all ALC subcommittees to meet in July only to take up items that have imminent need and cannot wait until the regularly scheduled August 2025 ALC meetings. The subcommittees that need to meet in July are permitted to meet outside the regular ALC meeting week. All actions that are normally reported at the July 2025 ALC meeting will be final and reported to ALC at its August 15, 2025, meeting. The Executive Subcommittee met again on Thursday, June 19, 2025, and reviewed and approved an emergency rule for DHS regarding psychiatric residential treatment facility services for children under the age of 21. This concluded the report of the Executive Subcommittee.

**Senator Ben Gilmore moved that the report of the Executive Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

Co-Chair Gilmore took a moment to express appreciation to everyone who helped in the start of and execution of the State Captive Insurance Program.

### Other Business

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Senator Matt McKee for a motion. As the co-chair of ALC-Charitable, Penal, and Correctional Institutions Subcommittee, Senator McKee stated, the ALC-Charitable, Penal, and Correctional Institutions Subcommittee will be meeting on July 10, 2025, to discuss the escape of a prisoner from Calico Rock, AR, and to review the policies and protocols the Department of Corrections has in place regarding security.

**In the event the subcommittee needs to further investigate the matter, Senator Matt McKee moved to authorize the ALC- Charitable, Penal, and Correctional Institutions Subcommittee to undertake an investigation in this matter and report its findings to the Arkansas Legislative Council. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

### Standing Subcommittee Presentations

#### Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Representative Jeff Wardlaw to present the report of the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee (Exhibit F.11). Representative Wardlaw reported that the PEER Subcommittee met on Tuesday, June 17, 2025. The Subcommittee received reports, reviewed requests, and approved the following: Various Temporary Appropriations; American Rescue Plan Act Appropriations; Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Appropriations; Restricted Reserve Fund Transfers; and a request to maintain a reduction on revenues from State Central Services. This concluded the report of the PEER Subcommittee.

**Representative Jeff Wardlaw moved to adopt the report of the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee.**

Co-Chair Eaves recognized members for questions related to the Educational Freedom Account (EFA). Mr. Jacob Oliva, Secretary, Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford, Chief of Staff, and Mr. Greg Rogers, Chief Fiscal Officer, all with the Arkansas Department of Education, were recognized to respond.

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Representative Andrew Collins, who requested to make a substitute motion.

**Representative Andrew Collins moved to take out the request from Department of Education – Division of Elementary and Secondary Education – Educational Freedom Account – \$90,000,000 (Item E.2.a on the report), and vote on it separately, apart from the full report. The motion was seconded but failed by voice vote.**

**Co-Chair Eaves acknowledged the original motion still on the floor that required a second and vote. The motion made by Representative Jeff Wardlaw to adopt the report of the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee, was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

Administrative Rules Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Representative Matthew Shepherd to present the report of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee (Exhibit F.1). Representative Shepherd reported that the Administrative Rules Subcommittee met on Thursday, June 19, 2025. The Subcommittee received agency updates on outstanding rulemaking from the 2023 Regular Session. All other rules were reviewed and approved as noted in the report. This concluded the report of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

**Representative Matthew Shepherd moved that the report of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Senator Irvin who informed members that the Game and Fish/State Police Subcommittee will meet in July 2025, with the specific date to be announced.

Claims Review & Litigation Reports Oversight Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Senator Jim Dotson to present the report of the Claims Review & Litigation Reports Oversight Subcommittee (Exhibit F.3). Senator Dotson reported the Claims Review & Litigation Reports Oversight Subcommittee met on Monday, June 16, 2025. The Subcommittee adopted the subcommittee rules and reviewed eleven (11) litigation reports and two (2) litigation settlements. One litigation settlement from the Department of Finance and Administration (DF&A), the Subcommittee voted not to review and recommended that DF&A settle the related litigation for \$1 or less. This concluded the report of the Claims Review & Litigation Reports Oversight Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

**Senator Jim Dotson moved that the report of the Claims Review & Litigation Reports Oversight Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Representative David Whitaker, House Vice-Chair of the subcommittee, to present the report of the Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee (Exhibit F.7). Representative Whitaker reported that the Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee met on Monday, June 16, 2025, to adopt the timelines for the studies mandated by Act 15 of the 2025 Regular Session and Act 1004 of the 2025 Regular Session. Additionally, the Subcommittee heard updates from the Department of Human Services (DHS) concerning the Division of Shared Services, and updates regarding reimbursement rates under the Living Choices Assisted Living Waiver. This concluded the report of the Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

**Representative David Whitaker moved that the report of the Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Representative Stephen Meeks to present the report of the Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee (Exhibit F.10). Representative Meeks reported the Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee met on Thursday, June 19, 2025, to discuss the entities that will be reviewed during the interim and approve the timeline to review those entities and authorizations. This concluded the report of the Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

**Representative Stephen Meeks moved that the report of the Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

Review Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Representative Frances Cavanaugh to present the report of the Review Subcommittee (Exhibit F.12). Representative Cavanaugh reported that the Review Subcommittee met on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, and reviewed the proposed purchase of the property for Department of Transformation and Shared Services (DTSS), Division of Information Systems, methods of finance, discretionary grants, and services contracts. All items were reviewed with the following exceptions: Out-of-state contracts for Department of Corrections, Wellpath LLC (#7, pg. 15), and Department of Education, Mindset Labs, Inc. (#10, pg. 16), were both held until the next regular meeting of the ALC-Review Subcommittee in August 2025; In-state contracts #80, #81, and #82 (pgs. 72-73) for Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Medical Services (DMS), for Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care were all held awaiting information from DHS. DHS provided the information on the afternoon of Thursday, June 19, 2025. This concluded the report of the Review Subcommittee.

**Representative Frances Cavanaugh moved that the report of the Review Subcommittee be adopted.**

Co-Chair Eaves recognized members for questions or comments. Senator Breanne Davis was recognized for a substitute motion.

**Senator Breanne Davis made a substitute motion to adopt the report of the Review Subcommittee, including In-State contracts for Arkansas Foundation of Medical Care (#'s 80, 81, and 82, pgs. 72-73) and Out-of-State contract for Mindset Labs, Inc. (#10, pg. 16). The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

State Insurance Programs Oversight Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Representative Rick Beck to present the report of the State Insurance Programs Oversight Subcommittee (Exhibit F.13). Representative Beck reported the State Insurance Programs Oversight Subcommittee met on Wednesday, June 18, 2025. The Subcommittee reviewed and approved the EBRx for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) contract amendment. The Subcommittee heard presentations on the State Captive Insurance Programs from representatives of Stephens, Inc., Perr & Knight, and Willis Towers Watson. The Subcommittee also reviewed and approved resolutions of establishment and the deductible rates and budget for Fiscal Year 2026 for the State Captive Insurance Program. This concluded the report of the State Insurance Programs Oversight Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

**Representative Rick Beck moved that the report of the State Insurance Programs Oversight Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Representative Les Warren to present the report of the Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee (Exhibit F.14). Representative Warren reported the Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee met on Wednesday, June 18, 2025. The Subcommittee reviewed and/or approved the items listed in the report. The Subcommittee also heard presentations from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and Employee Benefits Division (EBD), and took questions on the Department of Transformation and Shared Services contract request with APTUS Financial (#18, *Attachment 1*), referred to the Personnel Subcommittee by EBD. The contract will provide services to state employees to help navigate the Public Service Loan Program. The Subcommittee has recommended review of the contract by ALC. This concluded the report of the Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee.

**Representative Les Warren moved that the report of the Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee be adopted.**

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Representative Frances Cavanaugh for a substitute motion.

**Representative Frances Cavanaugh made a substitute motion to adopt the report of the Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee, with the exception of item number 18 - Department of Transformation and Shared Services contract request with APTUS Financial, to pull out for separate consideration.**

Representative Cavanaugh further requested a separation of votes by chambers. After clarification, Representative Cavanaugh retracted her request, until the proper time.

Co-Chair Eaves recognized members for questions or discussion on the motion. Co-Chair Eaves stated to divide the vote, there must be three hands shown from ALC members.

**Co-Chair Eaves reiterated that Representative Cavanaugh's substitute motion is to adopt the report, with the exception of Item 18 - APTUS contract, to be pulled out for separate consideration. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

**Representative Frances Cavanaugh then made a motion to review the APTUS contract and to separate the votes on the contract, by chambers.**

Co-Chair Eaves recognized members for questions and discussion on the motion.

**After discussion, and with Co-Chair Eaves seeing three (3) hands, the roll was called, starting with the House of Representatives. With a vote of seven (7) yeas and nineteen (19) nays, the motion failed.**

### **Review of Communications**

Co-Chair Eaves referred members to the communications listed on the agenda as Items H.01 - H.10 and noted that action by Legislative Council was needed for Item H.01, H.02, H.04(a), H.08(b), and H.10(b).

**H.01 - Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System (APERS), Request to review investment summaries, submitted pursuant to Act 1211 of 2009.**

- a. Partners Group Infrastructure Secondary (USD)A, L.P.
- b. Ares Secondaries Infrastructure Solutions III
- c. HarbourVest Infrastructure Opportunities Fund III
- d. Pantheon Global Infrastructure Fund V.

**Senator Ben Gilmore moved to file the request from the Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System, as reviewed. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

**H.02 - Arkansas Teacher Retirement System (ATRS), Request for the Legislative Council's review of partial equity ownership agreements submitted pursuant to A.C.A. §19-11-1302.**

- a. Arlington Capital Partners VII, L.P.
- b. Great Hill Equity Partners IX, L.P.

**Senator Ben Gilmore moved to file the request from the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System, as reviewed. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

**H.04 - Department of Commerce, Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Division of Rural Services, Request to approve funding for the Rural Community Grant Program, for FY2025, Cycle 2, submitted pursuant to Section 48 of Act 123 of the 2024 Fiscal Session.**

**Senator Ben Gilmore moved to file the requests from the Department of Commerce, Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Division of Rural Services, as reviewed. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

**H.08(b) - Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism, Division of State Parks, Request for approval of Special Maintenance funding appropriation for FY26 projects, submitted pursuant to Section 18 of Act 897 of the 2025 Regular Session.**

**Senator Ben Gilmore moved to file the requests from the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism, Division of State Parks, as approved. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

**H.10(b) - Department of Transformation and Shared Services, Division of Information Systems,** Request to review the proposed new rates of services for FY2026, submitted pursuant to A.C.A. §25-4-119(b)(3)(B).

**Senator Ben Gilmore moved to file the requests from the Department of Transformation and Shared Services, Division of Information Systems, as reviewed. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

#### **New Interim Study Proposals and Interim Resolutions**

**J.01 - Interim Study Proposal 2025-050, by Representative DeAnn Vaught,** is requesting ALC conduct a study of a Broad-based Categorical Eligibility Waiver for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits.

**Senator Justin Boyd moved to refer ISP 2025-050 to the ALC-Hospital, Medicaid, & Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

**J.02 - Interim Study Proposal 2025-005,** by Representative RJ Hawk, is to amend the definitions of "lottery" and "video lottery".

**Senator Justin Boyd moved to refer ISP 2025-005 to the ALC - Lottery Oversight Subcommittee. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

#### **Adjournment**

At 10:14 a.m., the meeting was adjourned as there was no further business to come before the Legislative Council.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

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Representative Les Eaves  
Co-Chair, House

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Marty Garrity  
Executive Secretary