

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

December 19, 2025

The Arkansas Legislative Council met at 9:00 a.m., Friday, November 21, 2025, in Committee Room A of the Big MAC Building, Little Rock, Arkansas. House Co-Chair Les Eaves called the meeting to order and recognized a quorum of members present. Senator Jim Petty 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 October 17, 2025 (Exhibit C) and asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

Senator Justin Boyd moved that the minutes of the October 17, 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 Senator Kim Hammer and President Pro Tempore Senator Bart Hester for a point of personal privilege. Senator Hammer and Senator Hester recognized Mr. John Felts, Commissioner, Post-Prison Transfer Board, Arkansas Department of Corrections, as he will retire in January 2026. Mr. Felts has served under four governors, and upon his retirement, will be the longest serving parole commissioner in Arkansas history and one of the longest serving parole commissioners nationwide. Applause and appreciation were given to Mr. Felts for his hard work and dedication to state government.

Revenue Report

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Dr. Carlos Silva, Legislative Economist, Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR), to present the October 2025 General Revenue Report (Exhibit D). Dr. Silva reported that the collections of Gross General Revenues year-to-date are approximately \$2.65 billion, an increase of \$14.1 million, or 0.5% above the \$2.63 billion collected last fiscal year-to-date. The Net General Revenue available for distribution of \$2.27 billion, increased \$41.4 million, or 1.9% from the \$2.22 billion available for distribution in October 2024.

Dr. Silva stated that the Cumulative Deviation increased by \$16.6 million for the month, which is \$90.5 million above the forecast. He then gave additional updates. This concluded the October 2025 General Revenue report. Co-Chair Eaves recognized members for questions.

Report of the Executive Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Senate Co-Chair Ben Gilmore to present the report of the Executive Subcommittee (Exhibit E). Co-Chair Gilmore reported that the Executive Subcommittee met on Thursday, November 20, 2025, and reviewed and approved an emergency rule for DHS related to the SNAP program. The Subcommittee also approved revisions to the MAC Security Policy, to account for the State Capitol Police in assuming control over the security of the MAC building. This concluded the report of the Executive Subcommittee.

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

Standing Subcommittee Presentations

Administrative Rules Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Representative Lane Jean to present the report of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee (Exhibit F.1). Representative Jean reported that the Administrative Rules Subcommittee met on Thursday, November 20, 2025. The Subcommittee filed two (2) quarterly reports and received agency updates on outstanding rulemaking from the 2023 and 2025 Regular Session. The Subcommittee also accepted recommendations of Group 3 agencies concerning an extension of rules from the 2017 and 2021 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 Lane Jean moved that the report of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Game & Fish/State Police Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Representative Dwight Tosh to present the report of the Game & Fish/State Police Subcommittee (Exhibit F.4). Representative Tosh reported that the Game & Fish/State Police Subcommittee met on Monday, November 17, 2025. The Subcommittee heard discussion from the Game and Fish Commission regarding rules and regulations for the upcoming duck season. The Subcommittee also heard discussion from the Attorney General's Office and the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism regarding concealed and open carry handgun laws in state parks. This concluded the report of the Game & Fish/State Police Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

Representative Dwight Tosh moved that the report of the Game & Fish/State Police Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee

Co-Chair Gilmore recognized Senator Jane English, to present the report of the Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee (Exhibit F.7). Senator Jane English reported that the Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee met on Monday, November 17, 2025, at the Department of Human Services (DHS) in Little Rock. The Subcommittee heard testimony on the overview of daily operations, and updates on the reimbursement rates under the Living Choices Assisted Living Waiver.

The Subcommittee met again on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at the Arkansas Workforce Center, in Little Rock, to hear testimony related to daily operations and processing procedures. This concluded the report of the Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

Senator Jane English moved that the report of the Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Senator Jonathan Dismang to present the report of the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee (Exhibit F.11). Senator Dismang reported that the PEER Subcommittee met on Tuesday, November 18, 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; and Restricted Reserve Fund Transfer. Two (2) items in the report were held for ALC review - Item A.1, an appropriation request for operations of the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and Arts; and Item G.16, an appropriation request for the Department of Agriculture to make a grant for the Lake Maumelle Watershed. Member questions had been answered for Item A.1 and the Department of Agriculture requested to withdraw their request (G.16) from consideration. This concluded the report of the PEER Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

Senator Jonathan Dismang moved to adopt the report of the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee, including item A.1 for the Arkansas School of Mathematics, Sciences, and Arts. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Review Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Senator Blake Johnson to present the report of the Review Subcommittee (Exhibit F.12). Senator Johnson reported that the Review Subcommittee met on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, and reviewed the methods of finance, discretionary grants, one (1) Alternative Delivery Construction Procurement, one (1) Agency Ratification, one (1) RFQ request, and services contracts. Three (3) contracts were held pending further information from the agencies. The holds have now been released. Under Construction Contracts, Contract #10 University of Arkansas ASMSA with Architecture Plus was held until the full Legislative Council meeting. Under Out-of-State Contracts, Contract #1 for Arkansas Public Service Commission with Day Mark Energy Advisors, and Contract # 2 for the Department of Commerce, Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) with Boston Consulting Group, were both held until the full Legislative Council meeting.

The Subcommittee approved a Member Disclosure for Senator Jim Petty from the Arkansas Development Finance Authority and a Black River Technical College request to lease two motor vehicles.

Senator Johnson further reported, after the subcommittee meeting, staff from the Department of Health requested a correction on the purpose statement for Item C.1.2 in Discretionary Grants. The purpose statement originally submitted by the agency was incorrect, and they provided a new description. On the evening of November 20, 2025, BLR staff received a request from DHS to remove Item D.2, a request for RFQ approval, from consideration. This concluded the report of the Review Subcommittee.

Senator Blake Johnson moved to adopt the report of the Review Subcommittee, with the exception of Item D.2 - RFQ Request from DHS, including the review of previously held contracts, and replacement of the purpose statement for the Health Discretionary Grant, and pull the Out-of-State Contract #8 for DHS - DCFS with Evident Change, for separate consideration. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

**Senator Jim Petty announced for the record, that he abstains from voting on this report.*

With questions from members, Senator Johnson requested that staff from DHS - DCFS come forward to respond to member questions on Contract #8. Ms. Tiffany Wright, Director, DCFS, and Ms. Sarah Cunningham, DTSS - Office of Procurement, were recognized to respond.

After questions and discussion, Representative Ryan A. Rose moved to refer Contract #8 for DHS - DCFS back to the Review Subcommittee for the December 2025 meeting. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Senate Pro Tempore Bart Hester was recognized and expressed his appreciation for the work done by staff at DCFS.

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, November 19, 2025. The Subcommittee reviewed the Employees Benefits Division contract with Public Consulting Group, LLC. The Subcommittee approved the Prescription Formulary and Medical Drugs Recommendations, as well as the Captive Insurance Programs Investment Policy Statement. The Subcommittee discussed the Legislative Audit report on State and Public Employees Health Benefits for the fiscal year ending June 20, 2024. 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, November 19, 2025, and reviewed the reports and requests listed in the report as Items 1-8. The Subcommittee was provided with a report, as requested at the August 2025 meeting, from the Director of the Office of Property Risk regarding the usage of the positions provided to them for the Office of Property Risk. No items were held. This concluded the report of the Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

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

Review of Communications

Co-Chair Eaves referred members to the communications listed on the agenda as Items H.01 - H.12 and noted that action by Legislative Council was needed for Item H.03(a). A report will be given for Item H.3(b) - Arkansas Insurance Department.

H.03(a) - Department of Commerce, Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Division of Rural Services, Request to approve funding for the Rural Community Grant Program for FY2026, submitted pursuant to Act 608 of 2025 Regular Session;

Senator Justin Boyd moved to file the request from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Division of Rural Services, as approved. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

H.03(b) - Department of Commerce, Arkansas Insurance Department, Monthly Status Report on Implementation of Rule 128 and PBM Enforcement.

Mr. Jimmy Harris, Commissioner, AID, and Mr. Daniel Holland, PBM General Counsel, AID, were recognized to respond to member questions.

Adjournment

At 9:46 a.m., the meeting was adjourned as there was no further business to come before the Legislative Council.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Representative Les D. Eaves
Co-Chair, House

Marty Garrity
Executive Secretary