

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

February 20, 2026

The Arkansas Legislative Council met at 9:00 a.m., Friday, January 16, 2026, in Committee Room A of the Big MAC Building, Little Rock, Arkansas. Senate Co-Chair Ben Gilmore called the meeting to order and recognized a quorum of members present. Representative Johnny Rye was recognized for the morning prayer.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Co-Chair Gilmore referred members to the minutes of the last Legislative Council meeting held on December 19, 2025 (Exhibit C) and asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

Representative Rick Beck moved that the minutes of the December 19, 2025, meeting of the Legislative Council be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Revenue Report

Co-Chair Gilmore recognized Dr. Carlos Silva, Legislative Economist, Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR), to present the December 2025 General Revenue Report (Exhibit D). Dr. Silva reported that the collections of Gross General Revenues year-to-date are approximately \$4.02 billion, an increase of \$49.5 million, or 1.2% above the \$3.97 billion collected last fiscal year-to-date. The Net General Revenue available for distribution of \$3.44 billion, increased \$73.4 million, or 2.2% from the \$3.36 billion available for distribution in December 2024. He then gave additional updates.

Dr. Silva stated that the Cumulative Deviation, even with a slight decrease, is \$102.9 million above the forecast. This concluded the December 2025 General Revenue report. Co-Chair Gilmore recognized members for questions.

Point of Personal Privilege

Co-Chair Gilmore recognized Representative Les Warren to introduce students from Lakeside High School in Hot Springs, AR, AP U.S. Government and Politics class. The students came to attend a Legislative Council meeting and visit the Arkansas State Capitol.

Report of the Executive Subcommittee

Co-Chair Gilmore recognized House Co-Chair Les D. Eaves to present the report of the Executive Subcommittee (Exhibit E). Co-Chair Eaves reported that the Executive Subcommittee met on Thursday, January 15, 2026, and heard a request from Mr. Harold Jeffcoat, Superintendent, Van Buren School District, for Cooperative Purchasing Construction Services. Senator Terry Rice made a motion to approve the request for the Van Buren School District. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote. This concluded the report of the Executive Subcommittee.

Co-Chair Les D. Eaves 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 Gilmore 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, January 15, 2026. The Subcommittee held one (1) agency's request for exclusion from the reporting requirements for rulemaking and denied one (1) agency's request. The Subcommittee accepted the recommendations of the Division of Higher Education, concerning the extension repeal rules, pursuant to Act 781 of 2017 and Act 65 of 2021. The Subcommittee received agency updates on outstanding rulemaking from the 2023 Regular Session and filed agencies monthly written updates on rulemaking from the 2025 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.

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, January 12, 2026, to hear testimony on the following items: an update on Reimbursement Rates Under the Living Choices Assisted Living Waiver by DHS; and integrating the public workforce system.

The Subcommittee met again on Monday afternoon (January 12, 2026) to review the findings presented by the Georgia Center for Opportunity. 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.

Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee

Co-Chair Gilmore recognized Senator Scott Flippo, Vice Chair, to present the report of the Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee (Exhibit F.10) Senator Flippo reported that the Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee met on Thursday, January 15, 2026, and received reports from various occupational authorization entities in Group 1. This concluded the report of the Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

Senator Scott Flippo moved that the report of the Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee

Co-Chair Gilmore 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, January 13, 2026. The Subcommittee received reports, reviewed requests, and approved the following: Various Temporary Appropriations; American Rescue Plan Act Appropriations; and Restricted Reserve Fund Transfers. One (1) item in the report was held for ALC review - Item G.2, a MFG by the Department of Agriculture to make a \$7 million grant to Central Arkansas Water for acquisitions in the Central Arkansas Watershed. The hold came with requests from members that the department revise and resubmit the request removing the acquisitions of properties in Perry County from consideration. The department was unable to submit a revised request. This concluded the report of the PEER Subcommittee.

Senator Jonathan Dismang moved to adopt the report of the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee, including Item G.2, in its original form. The motion was seconded.

Co-Chair Gilmore recognized members for questions. Senator Clarke Tucker requested for the Department of Education come forward to respond to questions on the LEARNS Act.

Senator Jonathan Dismang was recognized to withdraw his motion so discussion with the agency could take place - the motion was withdrawn. Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford, Chief of Staff, Dr. Darrel Smith, Assistant Commissioner, and Mr. Greg Rogers, Chief Fiscal Officer, of the Arkansas Department of Education were recognized to respond. A point of personal privilege was granted to Senator Breanne Davis to give a response.

After discussion, Senator Jonathan Dismang was recognized for a motion, and moved to adopt the report of the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee, including Item G.2, in its original form. The motion was seconded.

Senator Jimmy Hickey, Jr. was recognized to state a substitute motion and moved to review and discuss Item C.1 separately and adopt the remainder of the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee report. The motion was seconded.

Members were recognized for discussion on the substitute motion. A point of personal privilege was also granted to Representative Jim Wooten for response.

Representative Jim Wooten then made a substitute motion to the substitute motion and moved to adopt the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee report but extract and hold the \$32 million in Item C.1. The motion was seconded.

Members were recognized for questions or discussion on the motion.

After discussion, the substitute motion to the substitute motion, made by Representative Jim Wooten, failed, by voice vote.

After providing clarification, Senator Jimmy Hickey, Jr. restated his substitute motion and moved to adopt the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee, including Item G.2, and vote on Item C.1 separately. The motion was seconded but failed by voice vote.

Going back to the original motion, Senator Jonathan Dismang moved to adopt the report of the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee, including the review of Item G.2, in its original form. The motion was seconded. After questions and discussion, the motion passed by voice vote.

Review Subcommittee

Co-Chair Gilmore 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, January 13, 2026, and reviewed the methods of finance, one (1) alternative delivery method construction project; discretionary grants; services contracts; received regular monthly reports; and one (1) emergency action report. This concluded the report of the Review Subcommittee.

Senator Blake Johnson moved to adopt the report of the Review Subcommittee as presented. The motion was seconded.

Co-Chair Gilmore recognized members for discussion and requested that Senator Blake Johnson withdraw his motion so questions and discussion can take place amongst members and the agency(s). **The motion was withdrawn.** Co-Chair Gilmore then recognized Mr. Jim Hudson, Secretary, Department of Finance & Administration (DF&A) to respond to questions.

After questions and discussion, Senator Blake Johnson moved to adopt the report of the Review Subcommittee as presented. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

State Insurance Programs Oversight Subcommittee

Co-Chair Gilmore recognized Senator Jim Petty, to present the report of the State Insurance Programs Oversight Subcommittee (Exhibit F.13). Senator Petty reported the State Insurance Programs Oversight Subcommittee met on Wednesday, January 14, 2026. The Subcommittee reviewed the Office of Property Risk RFQ for financial auditing services. This concluded the report of the State Insurance Programs Oversight Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

Senator Jim Petty 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 Gilmore recognized Senator Breanne Davis to present the report of the Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee (Exhibit F.14). Senator Davis reported the Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee met on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, and approved the requests listed in the report as Items 1-3. The Subcommittee also reviewed the list of reports. This concluded the report of the Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

Senator Breanne Davis moved that the report of the Uniform Personnel Classification and Compensation Plan Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Review of Communications

Co-Chair Gilmore referred members to the communications listed on the agenda as Items H.01 - H.11 and noted that action by Legislative Council was needed for Items H.01, H.03(b), H.05, and H.08(b). A report will be given for Item H.3(a) - Arkansas Insurance Department.

H.01 - Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System (APERS), Request to review investment summaries, submitted pursuant to A.C.A §19-69-101;

- a. Stepstone Secondaries Infrastructure Fund, L.P. ("SSIF") and Stepstone Secondaries Infrastructure Fund Parallel, L.P. ("SSIFP")
- b. HarbourVest Private Equity Continuation Solutions Fund L.P ("PECS") and HarbourVest PECS Delaware Overflow Fund L.P. ("POF")

Senator Missy Irvin moved to file the Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System (APERS) request to review investment summaries, as reviewed. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

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

Co-Chair Gilmore recognized members for questions. Mr. Jimmy Harris, Commissioner, AID, and Mr. Daniel Holland, PBM General Counsel, AID, were recognized to respond to member questions.

H.03(b) - Department of Commerce, Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Division of Rural Services, request to approve funding for the Rural Services Block Grant Program for FY2026, submitted pursuant to Section 48 of Act 1010 of the 2021 Regular Session; and Arkansas Game and Fish Wildlife Grants for of FY2026, submitted pursuant to Section 41 of Act 876 of the 2019 Regular Session.

Representative Jack Ladyman moved to file the request from the Department of Commerce, Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Division of Rural Services, as approved. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

H.05 - Department of Energy and Environment, Division of Environmental Quality, request for review of Used Tire Program Revised Business Plan, submitted pursuant to A.C.A. § 8-9-408(f).

Senator Missy Irvin moved to file the request from the Department of Energy and Environment, Division of Environmental Quality, as reviewed. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

H.08(b) - Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism, Division of State Parks, semiannual status report that compares the six-month and fiscal year actual expenditures to intended disbursements that were reviewed under subsection (d) of this section, submitted pursuant to A.C.A. § 25-43-1304(e).

Senator Missy Irvin moved to file the request from the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism, Division of State Parks, as reviewed. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Adjournment

At 10:16 a.m., the meeting was adjourned as there was no further business to come before the Legislative Council.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Senator Ben Gilmore
Co-Chair, Senate

Marty Garrity
Executive Secretary