

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

October 16, 2026

The Arkansas Legislative Council met at 9:00 a.m., Friday, September 18, 2026, in Committee Room A of the Big MAC Building, Little Rock, Arkansas. House Co-Chair Representative Les D. Eaves called the meeting to order and recognized a quorum of members present. Senator Matt Stone 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 August 21, 2026 (Exhibit C) and asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

Senator Bart Hester moved that the minutes of the August 21, 2026, meeting of the Legislative Council be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Revenue Report

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Dr. Carlos Silva, Legislative Economist, Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR), to present the August 2026 General Revenue Report and the FY26 Annual Revenue Report (Exhibit D). Dr. Silva reported that the collections of Gross General Revenues year-to-date are approximately \$1.34 billion, an increase of \$50.6 million, or 3.9% above the \$1.29 billion collected last fiscal year-to-date. The Net General Revenue available for distribution of \$1.18 billion, increased \$57.8 million, or 5.1% from the \$1.13 billion available for distribution in August 2025.

Dr. Silva further reported that as of the date of this report, the July 2026 Unemployment Rate (AR) is at 4.0% and the July 2026 Labor Force Participation (AR) is at 59.2%. He stated that the Cumulative Deviation of the Net General Revenue Available for Distribution was approximately \$30.8 million, with this month's increase around \$4.5 million. However, there is a \$14.1 million difference in the Net Available for Distribution between this August and last August. Dr. Silva gave updates on general revenue collections, stating the Cigarette Paper Tax has a negative difference due to an adjustment. There is also a difference in the DWI Reinstatement Fee and Fines, Penalties and Court Cost due to the change by Act 989 of 2025. After questions from members, this concluded the August 2026 General Revenue report.

Report of the Executive Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Co-Chair Boyd to present the report of the Executive Subcommittee (Exhibit E). Co-Chair Boyd reported that the Executive Subcommittee met Tuesday, September 15, 2026, and took the following actions: recommended adoption by the full ALC of Interim Resolution 2025-009 by Senator Missy Irvin, which is attached to the report; and approved a motion to authorize payment of per diem and mileage to members-elect for attendance at interim legislative committee meetings following the special or general election in which the member-elect successfully ran.

Additionally, the Subcommittee heard an announcement concerning the October ALC meeting schedule for the fall budget hearings. The ALC Subcommittee meetings for October will be cancelled, with the exception of ALC PEER, ALC Review, and ALC Administrative Rules, which may meet concerning imminent need items on Monday, October 12, and in the afternoon on Thursday, October 15. Matters normally submitted to the other subcommittees that have been determined by the ALC Co-chairs to have an imminent need such that they cannot wait until the November ALC Subcommittee meetings may be added to the calendar or taken up directly by the full ALC at its October 16 meeting. Agency imminent need requests for October, should be submitted to the appropriate subcommittee staff, who will convey the requests to the ALC Co-chairs through Ms. Marty Garrity, Director, Bureau of Legislative Research. Reports and requests for action usually submitted for consideration by the full ALC should be provided to Director Garrity as usual. This concluded the report of the Executive Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

Co-Chair Justin Boyd moved that the report of the Executive Subcommittee, including Interim Resolution 2025-009 by Senator Missy Irvin, be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Standing Subcommittee Presentations

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, September 17, 2026, and received agency updates on outstanding rulemaking from the 2023 Regular Session and the 2025 Regular Session. All other rules were reviewed and approved. 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.

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, September 14, 2026, and reviewed: eleven (11) litigation reports and approved one (1) litigation settlement. One (1) claim was held by the Subcommittee pending receipt of further information from the Claims Commission. The Subcommittee affirmed the rulings of the Claims Commission as to all other claims on the agenda. 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.

Game and Fish/State Police Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Senator Missy Irvin, to present the report of the Game and Fish/State Police Subcommittee (Exhibit F.4). Senator Irvin reported that the Game and Fish/State Police Subcommittee met on Monday, September 14, 2026. The Subcommittee heard testimony from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission regarding Enforcement Protocols. This concluded the report of the Game and Fish/State Police Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

Senator Missy Irvin moved that the report of the Game and Fish/State Police Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Senator Joshua Bryant to present the report of the Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee (Exhibit F.7). Senator Bryant reported that the Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee met on Monday, September 14, 2026, to hear testimony on the following: an update on the Reimbursement Rates Under the Living Choices Assisted Living Waiver; and a presentation on WorkEd Consulting and Workforce Advisory Group Recommendations.

The Subcommittee met again on Thursday, September 17, 2026, to adopt the interim report on recommendations concerning the Arkansas Legislative Study of Workforce and Social Services Reform to meet the deadline of October 1, 2026. An additional update will be provided at the final ALC meeting of 2026 to inform ALC of any further progress. This concluded the report of the Hospital, Medicaid, and Developmental Disabilities Study Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

Senator Joshua Bryant 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 Senator Dave Wallace, to present the report of the Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee (Exhibit F.10). Senator Wallace reported that the Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee met on Thursday, September 17, 2026, and heard testimony from various occupational authorization entities in Group 1. This concluded the report of the Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

Senator Dave Wallace 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 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, September 15, 2026. The Subcommittee received reports, reviewed requests, and approved the following: Various Temporary Appropriations; American Rescue Plan Act Appropriations; Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Appropriation requests; Appropriation Transfers; and Restricted Reserve Fund Transfers. This concluded the report of the PEER Subcommittee. Senator Clarke Tucker made a request for representatives of the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) to come forward to respond to questions. Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford, Chief of Staff, and Mr. Greg Rogers, Chief Financial Officer,

ADE, came forward to respond. With questions from other members, Mr. Jim Hudson, Secretary, Department of Finance and Administration (DF&A), and Ms. Janet Mann, Secretary, Department of Human Services (DHS), were also recognized to respond to questions.

Representative Jeff Wardlaw moved to adopt the report of the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee. The motion was seconded.

Senator Terry Rice made a substitute motion to approve the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER) Subcommittee report, without Item D.2 - Department of Education – Division of Elementary and Secondary Education –Educational Freedom Account Program – \$70,000,000, and vote on that item separately. The motion was seconded but failed by voice vote.

The original motion made by Representative Jeff Wardlaw was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Review Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Senator Matt McKee to present the report of the Review Subcommittee (Exhibit F.12). Senator McKee reported that the Review Subcommittee met on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, and reviewed: methods of finance; alternative delivery method procurements; discretionary grants; one ratification; services contracts; RFQ approvals; and received reports. This concluded the report of the Review Subcommittee, and there were no questions.

Senator Matt McKee moved that the report of the Review Subcommittee be adopted. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

State Insurance Programs Oversight Subcommittee

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Senator Jim Petty, to present the report of the State Insurance Programs Oversight Subcommittee (Exhibit F.13). Senator Petty reported that the State Insurance Programs Oversight Subcommittee met on Wednesday, September 16, 2026. The Subcommittee reviewed the Employee Benefits Division contract amendment with Navitus Health Solutions, LLC, and heard a presentation from Dr. Wayne Winegarden with Pacific Research Institute. 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 Eaves 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, September 16, 2026, and reviewed requests and the reports listed as Items 1-7 on the report. 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 Eaves referred members to the communications listed on the agenda as Items H.01 - H.06 and noted that these items are received but no action by Legislative Council is needed. There were no questions or requests from members on Items H.01-H.06.

Point of Personal Privilege

Co-Chair Eaves recognized Senator Missy Irvin for comments related to the interim resolution that was adopted earlier in the meeting including the purpose of supporting the habitat in the Prairie Pothole region of the west-central United States. She encouraged members to support upholding setback rules that protect wetland and waterfowl populations.

Adjournment

At 9:47 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