

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Meeting Jointly
Monday, October 7, 2024
1:30 PM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Jane English, Chair; Linda Chesterfield, Vice Chair; Breanne Davis, Jim Dotson, Kim Hammer, Greg Leding, and Matt Stone; Representatives Brian S. Evans, Chair; Keith Brooks, Vice Chair; Rick Beck, Bruce Cozart, Hope Duke, Lanny Fite, Denise Garner, Grant Hodges, Wayne Long, Brit McKenzie, Ron McNair, Stetson Painter, Steven Walker, and Carlton Wing

Other members present: Senator Alan Clark; Representatives Howard M. Beaty, Jr., Stan Berry, Denise Ennett, Mike Holcomb, Steve Hollowell, Tippi McCullough, Joy Springer, and Danny Watson.

Representative Evans called the meeting to order.

Consideration of a Motion to Approve the August 20, 2024, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]

Without objection, the minutes were approved.

Discussion of Adequacy Recommendations

Representative Brooks moved that the House Committee on Education approve the final 2024 Adequacy Study report, including the foundation, categorical and supplemental funding recommendations made today in the handout “Proposed Recommendations for Adequacy, 2025-2027.” This recommendation includes a line item for the Department of Education’s contribution to the Employee Benefits Division on behalf of educator health insurance for an amount of \$150.6 million in 2026 and \$156.7 million in 2027.

Without objection, the motion passed.

Senator Chesterfield moved that the Senate Committee on Education approve the final 2024 Adequacy Study report, including the foundation, categorical and supplemental funding recommendations made today in the handout “Proposed Recommendations for Adequacy, 2025-2027.” This recommendation includes a line item for the Department of Education’s contribution to the Employee Benefits Division on behalf of educator health insurance for an amount of \$150.6 million in 2026 and \$156.7 million in 2027.

Without objection, the motion passed.

Representative Brooks moved that, in order to sufficiently fund health insurance for public school employees during the 2024-25 school year, the House and Senate Education Committees recommend to the 95th General Assembly that legislation be passed during the 2025 Regular Session to increase:

The monthly amounts paid by public school districts and charter systems to the Employee Benefits Division from \$234.50 per participating member per month to \$312 per participating member per month. This increase should be reflected in the matrix as an increase to the foundation funding amount for the 2024-25 school year from \$7,771 per student to \$7,809 per student; and

The amount paid to EBD by the Department of Education for public school employee health insurance from \$142 million to \$144.8 million.

Without objection, the motion passed.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

DRAFT