

**APPROVED 6-25-2026**

**MINUTES**

**HEALTH SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND  
LABOR COMMITTEE**

**HEALTH SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND  
LABOR COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Jointly**

**Monday, October 7, 2024**

**1:00 PM**

**Room B, MAC**

**Little Rock, Arkansas**

---

Committee members present: Senators Justin Boyd, Chair; Missy Irvin, and Fredrick J. Love; Representatives Aaron Pilkington, Chair; Fred Allen, Mary Bentley, Bart Schulz, and Lee Johnson

Other members present: Senators Alan Clark, Jim Dotson, and Dan Sullivan; Representatives Howard M. Beaty Jr., Justin Gonzales, Jack Ladyman, Wayne Long, Kendra Moore, Mark Perry, David Ray, Jay Richardson, R. Scott Richardson, Ryan A. Rose, and Joy Springer

Representative Pilkington called the meeting to order.

**Consideration to Adopt the November 14, 2022, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]**

Senator Love made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Bentley, and the motion carried.

**Discussion of Interim Study Proposal 2023-004 by Senator Justin Boyd – To Establish the Arkansas Kratom Consumer Protection Act; And to Remove Mitragynine and 7-Hydroxymitragynine, Also Known as Kratom, from the Controlled Substances List in Arkansas [Exhibits C1-C6] [Handouts 1-2]**

Kirsten Smith, Ph.D., John Hopkins University; Mac Haddow, Senior Fellow on Public Policy, American Kratom Association; Chris McCurdy, Ph.D., University of Florida; Jack Henningfield, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University; and Senator Boyd; provided background information and studies related to the use of Kratom.

Laura Shue, General Counsel, Arkansas Department of Health (ADH); Matt Gilmore, Public Health Programs Policy/Boards and Commission Coordinator, ADH; and Shane David, Pharm. D., Health Systems Licensing/Regulation Branch Chief, ADH; discussed the health department's response on Kratom use.

Mason Sanders, Citizen, and Jillian Price, Citizen, provided comments regarding the potential benefits of Kratom for individuals.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.