

**MINUTES**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR**  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR**  
**Meeting Jointly**  
**Monday, October 28, 2024**  
**10:00 AM**  
**Room A, MAC**  
**Little Rock, Arkansas**

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Committee members present: Senators Missy Irvin, Chair; Dan Sullivan, Vice Chair; Justin Boyd, Scott Flippo, Bryan King, and Fredrick J. Love; Representatives Lee Johnson, Chair; Fred Allen, Mary Bentley, Jon S. Eubanks, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Justin Gonzales, Jack Ladyman, Mark Perry, Aaron Pilkington, and Bart Schulz

Other members present: Representatives Stan Berry, Rick McClure, Tippi McCullough, Jay Richardson, Joy Springer, Trey Steimel, and Dwight Tosh

**Consideration to Approve the September 30, 2024, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]**

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

**Update on Nursing Shortages in Arkansas [Exhibit C]**

Kristi Putnam, Secretary, Department of Human Services (DHS), and Janet Mann, Deputy Secretary of Programs and Medicaid Director, DHS, discussed the Special Compensation Award Program aimed to recruit and retain nurses in Arkansas.

**Report on Arkansas Strategic Committee for Maternal Health [Exhibit D]**

Kristi Putnam, Secretary, DHS, and Janet Mann, Deputy Secretary of Programs and Medicaid Director, DHS, gave an update on the progress of the Statewide Strategic Maternal Health Plan.

**Consideration for Adoption of Interim Study Proposal (ISP) [Exhibits E1-E2] [Handout E1]**

Representative Johnson stated that without objection, ISP 2023-122 and ISP 2023-123 are adopted for study.

**Department of Energy and Environment (E&E), Division of Environmental Quality, Review of Rule, Rule No. 1, Prevention of Pollution by Oil Field Waste [Exhibit F]**

Bailey Taylor, Director, Division of Environmental Quality, E&E; Kesia Morrison, Chief Counsel, E&E; and Shane Khoury, Secretary, E&E; discussed rules transferring the responsibility of regulating and permitting the surface facilities of Class II wells to the Oil and Gas Commission.

Representative Johnson stated that, without objection, this rule stands reviewed.

**E&E, Division of Environmental Quality, Review of Rule, Rule No. 6, Regulations for State Administration of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) [Exhibit G]**

Bailey Taylor, Director, Division of Environmental Quality E&E, and Kesia Morrison, Chief Counsel, E&E, discussed amending rules related to Regulation 6 by adopting federal revisions to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and incorporating revisions made by the General Assembly.

Representative Johnson stated that, without objection, this rule stands reviewed.

**Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), Division for Health Protection, Infectious Disease, Review of Rule, Rules Pertaining to Rabies Control [Exhibit H]**

Dr. Laura Rothfeldt, State Public Health Veterinarian, ADH; Craig Smith, Attorney, ADH; and Laura Shue, Chief General Counsel, ADH; discussed amending rules related to the Rabies Control Act to allow additional persons to administer rabies vaccinations and to quarantine cats and dogs at home.

Representative Johnson stated that, without objection, this rule stands reviewed.

**ADH, Division of Local Public Health, Review of Rules, REPEAL: Rules and Regulations for Retired Physician Immunity Act [Exhibit I]**

Craig Smith, Attorney, ADH, and Laura Shue, Chief General Counsel, ADH, discussed repealing rules related to the Retired Physician Immunity Act.

Representative Johnson stated that, without objection, this rule stands reviewed.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

DRAFT