

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
Meeting Jointly
Friday, December 13, 2024
10:00 AM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Missy Irvin, Chair; Dan Sullivan, Vice Chair; and Justin Boyd; Representatives Fred Allen, Jon S. Eubanks, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Justin Gonzales, Zack Gramlich, Jack Ladyman, Stephen Magie, Kendra Moore, Mark Perry, Aaron Pilkington, R. Scott Richardson, Ryan A. Rose, Bart Schulz, Jeff Wardlaw, and Jeremy Wooldridge

Other members present: Senators Jim Dotson, Ben Gilmore, Reginald Murdock, and John Payton; Representatives Howard Beaty, Jr., Rick Beck, Keith Brooks, Rebecca Burkes, Vivian Flowers, Grant Hodges, Wayne Long, Austin McCollum, and Dwight Tosh; Representatives Glenn Barnes, Lincoln Barnett-Elect, and Dolley Henley

Consideration to Approve the November 25, 2024, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]

Representative Ladyman made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Rose, and the motion carried.

Presentation on Reality Check, Inc. [Exhibits C1-C2]

Lizabeth Bryant, Executive Director, Reality Check, Inc.; Amanda Martin, Director, Grants, Healthy Connections, Inc.; Thelma Moton, Executive Director, Choosing to Excel; and Beth Prine, Executive Director, Prevention Education Programs, Inc.; discussed the effectiveness of youth development programs that are administered in schools throughout the state.

Discussion of Interim Study Proposal 2023-110 by Senator Missy Irvin – Requesting the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor to Study the Operations of the Arkansas Waste Tire Program and the Potential for Improving the Strength of the Arkansas Waste Tire Program [Exhibits D1-D2]

John Dillon, Regional Vice President, Great Lakes Region, Liberty Tire Recycling; Paige Davis, Fractional Chief Financial Officer, Davis Rubber Company; Robyn Reed, Director, Boston Mountain Regional Solid Waste Management District; and Senator John Payton; discussed the impact and benefits of tire recycling.

Request for Approval of a Program to Reduce or Eliminate Prior Authorizations for a Healthcare Provider Pursuant to Act 575 of 2023 [Exhibit E]

Mitch Morris, Chief Executive Officer, Empower Healthcare Solutions, and Bradley Diner, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, Empower Healthcare Solutions, gave an overview of their updated policies regarding prior authorizations.

Representative Gramlich made a motion to expunge the previous recommendation regarding the prior authorization proposal previously presented by Empower Healthcare Solutions, seconded by Representative Rose, and the motion carried.

Representative Gramlich made a motion to recommend approval of the updated prior authorization proposal presented by Empower Healthcare Solutions, seconded by Representative Rose, and the motion carried.

Consideration for Adoption of Interim Study Proposals (ISP) [Exhibits F1-F4]

Senator Irvin stated that without objection, ISP 2023-149, ISP 2023-150, ISP 2023-151, and ISP 2023-152 are adopted for study.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

DRAFT