EXHIBIT B

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND LABOR
Meeting Jointly
Tuesday, October 2, 2026
10:00 AM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Missy Irvin, Chair; and Ricky Hill; Representatives Jeff Wardlaw, Chair; Jeremy Wooldridge, Vice-Chair; Fred Allen, Glenn Barnes, Mary Bentley, Denise Jones Ennett, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Zack Gramlich, Dolly Henley, Jack Ladyman, Wayne Long, Mark Perry, Aaron Pilkington, Jay Richardson, and Ryan A. Rose

Other members present: Senators Alan Clark, Jim Dotson, and Bryan King; Representatives Lincoln Barnett, Howard M. Beaty, Jr., Paul Childress, James Eaton, Jon S. Eubanks, Denise Garner, Jessie McGruder, Joy Springer, Bill Teeter, and Dwight Tosh

Representative Wardlaw called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve the September 1, 2026, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]
Representative Ladyman made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Rose, and the motion carried.

Overview of University of Arkansas Medical Sciences (UAMS) Co-Management Agreements
Andy Davis, Vice Chancellor of External Affairs and Facility Development, UAMS; Brian Jones, Vice Chancellor of Regional Campuses, UAMS; and Brandon Robinson, Chief Legal Counsel, UAMS; gave an overview of UAMS's recent co-management agreements entered into with three rural Arkansas hospitals in Helena, Mena and Warren. Different agreements are in place for Jefferson Regional Medical Center (JRMC) and Bryant Heart Hospital. UAMS controls the board of JRMC, but Bryant will be run similar to a community hospital with a broader range of services available.

Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Medical Services, Review of Rule, Physician Assistants and Clinical Nurse Specialists as Primary Care Providers [Exhibit F]
Elizabeth Pitman, Director, Division of Medical Services, DHS, presented a rule to increase the number of providers in rural areas of the state. The rule allows physician assistants and clinical nurse specialists to bill for services rendered to Medicaid beneficiaries at 80% of the physician's rate.

Representative Wardlaw stated that, without objection, the rule stands as reviewed.

Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), Division of Health Protection, Health Facility Services Section, Review of Rule, Rules for Conduction Criminal History Record Checks for Home Health, Hospice, and Private Care Agencies in Arkansas [Exhibit G]
Craig Smith, Attorney, ADH, presented amendments to add provisions allowing third-party evaluation services to conduct criminal history record checks.

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ADH, Division of Health Protection, Health Facility Services Section, Review of Rule, Rules for Freestanding Birthing Centers in Arkansas [Exhibit H]
Craig Smith, Attorney, ADH, presented amendments to add allowance of electronic medical records, allow private professional providers to complete building-project review and approval, allow facilities to ban emotional support animals, and add the definition of service animals.

ADH, Division for Health Protection, Health Facility Servies Section, Review of Rule, Rules for In Vitro Fertilization in Arkansas [Exhibit I]
Craig Smith, Attorney, ADH, presented amendments to change and align provisions with current practices and utilization of electronic medical records.

ADH, Division for Health Protection, Health Facility Services Section, Review of Rule, Rules for Kidney Disease Program [Exhibit J]
Craig Smith, Attorney, ADH, presented an amendment to enact a name change converting the state Kidney Disease Commission into the State Kidney Disease Advisory Council.

ADH, Division for Health Protection, Health Facility Services Section, Review of Rule, Rules for Public Access to Epinephrine [Exhibit K]
Craig Smith, Attorney, ADH, presented amendments to clarify the types of epinephrine for use by authorized entities and to expand on health professionals who can issue certificates.

ADH, Office of Alcohol Testing, Review of Rule, Rules for Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Devices [Exhibit L]
Craig Smith, Attorney, ADH, presented amendments to change requirements for approval of ignition interlock devices and to allow updates to industry standards.

ADH, Division of Public Health Practice, Environmental Health Branch, Review of Rule, Rules Pertaining to General Sanitation [Exhibit M]
Craig Smith, Attorney, ADH, presented amendments to reflect changes and clarify plan review process language.

Representative Wardlaw stated that, without objection, rules G-M stand as reviewed.

Discussion of Community and Employment Support (CES) Waiver Waitlist
Jennifer Brezée, Director, Division of Developmental Disabilities Services, Department of Human Services (DHS); Paula Stone, Director, Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, DHS; and Melissa Weatherton, Director, Specialty Medicaid Services; discussed the purpose of the CES Waiver, provided an update on implementation, and gave an overview of funding related to the CES Waiver.

Members of the public provided testimony regarding their experience on the CES Waiver waitlist.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

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