

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE AND COMMERCE
House Committee on Insurance and Commerce
Meeting Jointly
Wednesday, September 4, 2024
10:00 AM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Ricky Hill, Chair, Justin Boyd, Jonathan Dismang, Jimmy Hickey, Jr, Mark Johnson, Clint Penzo; Representatives John Maddox, Chair, Karilyn Brown, Vice-Chair, Fred Allen, Les D. Eaves, Denise Jones Ennett, Jon S. Eubanks, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Grant Hodges, Robin Lundstrum, Mark Perry, Jay Richardson, Ryan A. Rose, Steven Walker, Les Warren, and Jim Wooten

Other members present: Senators Linda Chesterfield, Steve Crowell, Jim Dotson, Scott Flippo, Kim Hammer, Greg Leding, Fredrick J. Love, David Wallace; Representatives Brandon Achor, Wade Andrews, Stan Berry, Rebecca Burkes, Lanny Fite, Brit McKenzie, Jon Milligan, Aaron Pilkington, Johnny Rye, Danny Watson, and Jeremy Woolridge

Senator Hill called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve the June 5, 2024 and June 6, 2024, Meeting Minutes [Exhibits B1-B2]
Without objection, the minutes from the June 5, 2024 and June 6, 2024 meetings were approved.

Arkansas Insurance Department (AID), Review of Amendment to Rule 118, Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Pharmacy Benefits Managers [Exhibit C]

Alan McClain, Commissioner, AID, Department of Commerce (DOC) and Booth Rand, General Counsel, AID discussed amending Rule 118 to ensure compliance with current state legislation.

AID 2024 Reports – Jimmy Harris, Compliance Director, AID; Alan McClain, Commissioner, AID, DOC [Exhibits D1-D3]

Jimmy Harris, Compliance Director, AID and Alan McClain, Commissioner, AID, DOC presented and discussed the findings of the following reports: Annual Study of Worker’s Compensation Insurance Market in Arkansas, Arkansas Plan Premium Report July 2024, and the State of the Line Report.

Discussion on Providers Billing and Insurance

Max Greenwood, Vice President of Government and Media Relations, Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Jack Hopkins, Director, Government Relations, Centene Corporation discussed the challenges in the implementation of the No Surprises Act, highlighted the significance of competition amongst pharmacies in Arkansas, and emphasized the importance of accountability and compliance with payment standards amongst pharmacy benefit managers.

Dr. Charles “Chuck” Mason, MD, Emergency Medicine Specialist, Cabot Emergency Hospital gave public comment on the mitigating circumstances around the ability to negotiate costs with insurance companies for the billing of emergency hospital services.

With no further business the meeting concluded at 12:30 p.m.