

MINUTES

**Senate Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs
House Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs**

Meeting Jointly

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

9:00 AM

**Oaklawn Event Center, Ballroom A, 2705 Central Avenue
Hot Springs, Arkansas**

Committee members present: Senators Steve Crowell and Bart Hester; Representatives Dwight Tosh, Chair; Mark D. McElroy, Vice Chair; Rick Beck, Mary Bentley, John P. Carr, Justin Gonzales, Lane Jean, Jon Milligan, Jamie Scott, Kendon Underwood, and Jeff Wardlaw

Other members present: Senators Ronald Caldwell, Mark Johnson, and Dan Sullivan; Representatives Howard M. Beaty, Jr., Jon S. Eubanks, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Jack Ladyman, Rick McClure, David Ray, and Matthew J. Shepherd

Representative Tosh called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes for the December 4, 2023, Meeting [Exhibit C]

Senator Crowell made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative McElroy, and the motion carried.

Joint Update: U.S. Department of Commerce's NTIA and Arkansas State Broadband Office [Handout D]

Phillip Powell, Federal Program Officer, OICG and NTIA, U.S. Department of Commerce, and Glen Howie, Director, Arkansas State Broadband Office, provided an update on the Arkansas State Broadband Office. Mr. Powell explained that the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program and the Digital Equity program provide money for infrastructure to ensure high-speed internet access is affordable. Mr. Howie discussed the state broadband map showing the unserved and underserved broadband areas of the state.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM