

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Meeting Jointly
Wednesday, October 8, 2025
1:30 PM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Scott Flippo, Chair; Alan Clark, Kim Hammer, and Dan Sullivan; Representatives Jimmy Gazaway, Chair; Rick Beck, Vice-Chair; Stan Berry, John P. Carr, Andrew Collins, Cindy Crawford, Denise Jones Ennett, RJ Hawk, Julie Mayberry, Mark D. McElroy, Ryan A. Rose, Kendon Underwood, and Jeremy Wooldridge

Other members present: Senators Bart Hester, and Jamie Scott; Representatives Keith Brooks, Joey L. Carr, Cameron Cooper, Dolly Henley, Jack Ladyman, Jason Nazarenko, Jay Richardson, Bart Schulz, and Joy Springer

Senator Flippo called the meeting to order.

Consideration of a Motion to Authorize Chairs to Approve Special Expenses Incurred by the Committees
Representative McElroy made a motion to approve special expenses incurred by the committees, seconded by Representative Beck, and the motion carried.

Consideration of a Motion to Approve the May 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit D]
Representative Beck made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative McElroy, and the motion carried.

Discussion of Child Abuse Case in Baxter County [Exhibit E]
David Ethredge, Prosecuting Attorney, Baxter County, 14th Judicial District, discussed how his office addresses child abuse cases, detailed the charges specific to the Baxter County case by the Mountain Home police department, and expressed difficulty receiving information needed to prosecute the case.

Overview of Child Abuse Hotline Procedures and Agency Roles
Lori McDonald, Chief of Staff, Department of Human Services (DHS) and Tiffany Wright, Director, Division of Children and Family Services, DHS, explained the process by which their office receives and reviews reports, and discussed ideas for addressing issues within their procedures. Lt. Col. Jason Aaron, Deputy Director, Arkansas State Police (ASP) and Dan Mack, Administrator, Crimes Against Children Division Hotline, ASP, described what information is collected during the reporting process, how a report is accepted for investigation, and potential improvements for the process.

Senator Clark made a motion that the Baxter County closed cases be referred to the Child Maltreatment Investigations Oversight Committee, seconded by Senator Sullivan, and the motion carried.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM