

DRAFT MINUTES**HOUSE & SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON STATE AGENCIES AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

October 26, 2012

The Senate and House State Agencies and Governmental Affairs Interim Committees met on Thursday, October 26, 2012, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 171 of the State Capitol.

Members in Attendance

The following members attended: Senators Kim Hendren and Johnny Key. Representatives Clark Hall, Chair, Duncan Baird, Andrea Lea, Johnnie Roebuck, and Mary Slinkard.

Other members in attendance were: Senators Linda Chesterfield, Gene Jeffress, Jimmy Jeffress, Randy Laverty, and Eddie Joe Williams. Representatives Fred Allen, Tommy Baker, John Burris, John Catlett, Efre Elliott, David Fielding, Billy Gaskill, Buddy Lovell, Walls McCrary, Stephen Meeks, Mike Patterson, Randy Stewart, and Henry “Hank” Wilkins IV.

The Interim Committees on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs were called to order by Representative Clark Hall.

In response to Representative Kelley Linck’s invitation, the committee agreed to have a meeting in Flippin, Arkansas.

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS)

Mr. Tom Butler, Vice Chancellor, Administrative and Governmental Affairs, UAMS said he did not prepare a presentation so he will answer questions from the committee.

In response to a question by Representative Wilkins, Mr. Butler said uncompensated care costs UAMS about \$200 million per year.

Representative Stewart asked how UAMS addresses doctor shortages in rural Arkansas. Mr. Butler explained, adding a Northwest Arkansas campus created room for 17 more students per year; the school accepts students partially based on their congressional districts; and applicants specifying a preference for practicing medicine in rural areas have an advantage in the application process. About 167 doctors graduate from the program each year; UAMS is the only school in Arkansas that trains physicians; and soon they will begin a physician assistant training program.

Representative Roebuck asked if UAMS’s clinical requirements create barriers when recruiting doctors. Mr. Butler said federal law regulates how many clinical hours the school can require and the hours differ for various residencies.

Representative Burris said he would like to see a breakdown of the kinds of cases treated in UAMS’s Emergency Room compared with the hospital’s uncompensated treatment rates.

Representative Hall said Representative Cowling was unable to attend the meeting, so the committee will not hear Interim Study Proposal Study 2011-224 at this time.

With no further business, the committee adjourned at 10:32 AM.