

MINUTES
JOINT PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE
Tuesday, October 1, 2024
1:00 PM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Kim Hammer, Co-Chair; Joshua Bryant, Vice-Chair; Justin Boyd Jonathan Dismang, Reginald Murdock, Jim Petty, Terry Rice, Dan Sullivan; Representatives Mark H. Berry, Co-Chair, David Ray, Vice-Chair; Rebecca Burkes, Bruce Cozart, Brian S. Evans, Tony Furman, Jimmy Gazaway, Marcus E. Richmond, Robin Lundstrum, Jamie Scott, Tara Shephard, Joy Springer, Carlton Wing, Jim Wooten

Other members present: Senators, Linda Chesterfield, Alan Clark, Steve Crowell, Jim Dotson, Ben Gilmore, Mark Johnson, Fredrick Love; Representatives Howard Beaty, Stan Berry, Karilyn Brown, Keneth Ferguson, Vivian Flowers, Steve Hollowell, Roger Lynch, Rick McClure, Stephen Meeks, Stetson Painter, Aaron Pilkington, Johnny Rye, and DeAnn Vaught

Senator Hammer called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve the May 14, 2024, and June 27, 2024, Meeting Minutes [Exhibits B1-B2]

Representative M. Berry made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Furman, and the motion carried.

Discussion of Act 276 of 2021: An act to amend the process of evaluation of state boards and commissions; to require submission of a report; to recommend the abolition of a state board or commission for failure to submit a report; and for other purposes. [Exhibits D1-D2]

Senator Hammer provided an explanation of the current list of submitted reports by all state boards and commissions in Arkansas, as is required by Act 276 of 2021. Senator Hammer announced that any board or commission who has not submitted a report to be in compliance with Act 276 of 2021 by the next committee meeting to be called to testify in front of the committee.

Discussion of Petition to Include Paper Ballots in Elections at the County Level

Janet Paquette, Notary Public, and Jenifer H. Kendrick, Notary Public, discussed their involvement in notarizing the paper ballot petitions provided by various out-of-state canvassers who resided in Conway, Arkansas while collecting signatures.

Representative DeAnn Vaught expressed the intent behind the Act 346 of 2019, an act to amend Arkansas Law concerning the procedures for petitions and referred constitutional amendments; and for other purposes, as it relates to how the petitions to include paper ballots in Conway elections in Arkansas was submitted to the county clerks. Leslie Bellamy, Director of Elections, Elections Division, Arkansas Secretary of State; Doug Curtis, County Clerk, Saline County; and Allison Cain, Deputy Attorney, Saline County; provided more insight into the paper ballot petitions along with how these petitions are stored in a secured fashion.

Clint Lancaster, Attorney, The Lancaster Law Firm, explained his understanding of why the submitted signature pages had redactions included upon submission to the county clerk. Mr. Lancaster also expressed the difference between domicile and residence as it relates to where the out-of-state canvassers were living while collecting petition signatures, as explained in a letter written to the Saline County Clerk's Office

Representative Ray made the motion that authority be granted to the chairs of the Joint Performance Review Committee to exercise the subpoena power of the committee to issue subpoenas for persons, documents, and records related to the collection of signatures to include paper ballots in the Arkansas elections at the county level, seconded by Senator Bryant, and the motion carried.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

DRAFT