

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF THE

JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FACILITIES

May 21, 2025

The Joint Interim Committee on Legislative Facilities met at 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 21, 2025, in Room 272 of the State Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas. Co-Chair DeAnn Vaught called the meeting to order and recognized a quorum of members present.

The first order of business was to select a Senate Co-Chair for the committee. **Senator Bart Hester made a motion to appoint Senator Kim Hammer as the Senate Co-Chair of the Joint Interim Committee on Legislative Facilities. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.**

Co-Chair Hammer recognized Ms. Jill Thayer, Committee Analyst and Chief Legal Counsel of the Bureau of Legislative Research, to explain what areas the committee has jurisdiction over. Ms. Thayer responded, under the law, the Committee has jurisdiction over legislative spaces within the Capitol only.

The House of Representatives had their committee rooms renovated in 2016-2017. The Senate rooms, with the exception of the Old Supreme Court and other minor updates, have not had any renovations since 2002-2003.

Co-Chair Hammer recognized Ms. Ann Cornwell, Secretary/Director of the Arkansas Senate, to respond to questions asked about the Senate rooms. Ms. Cornwell informed members that some of the necessary work, including the replacement of the drapes, will have to be done by the Secretary of State's office. Co-Chair Vaught then recognized Ms. Thayer to explain the committee's funding - which is allocated in the Bureau of Legislative Research's budget at \$205,000. It is a line item designated for the committee every year and the funds are authorized for use by the Legislative Facilities Committee.

With members engaging in further discussion regarding renovations to the Senate rooms, Co-Chair Vaught recognized Ms. Marty Garrity, Director, Bureau of Legislative Research, who informed members they could contact the Secretary of State's office, Division of Building Authority, the state's architect, or even consider an independent architect or interior designer to assist with plans and projects. Senator Dotson also suggested the committee look into receiving a grant (*Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council*) and consider the lighting and microphones in the updates. Co-Chair Hammer stated the microphones in Room 207 have been considered, with the Senate Efficiency Committee authorizing replacement of the microphones. He then asked Ms. Thayer if the Senate Efficiency Committee is responsible for making updates to the Senate chambers or if it is the responsibility of the Legislative Facilities Committee. Ms. Thayer responded, the Legislative Facilities Committee could allocate funds to use when updating the respective chambers, but it has been past practice for the Senate Efficiency Committee to make updates to the Senate chamber/offices.

Co-Chair Vaught then recognized Representative Carol Dalby who made a motion to authorize the Committee Co-Chairs to meet with the Secretary of State's office and other state facilities management divisions to explore expertise to take a look at the rooms and consider the needs of lighting, carpet, etc., to give an idea of what is necessary to update in each room. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Adjournment

At 3:12 p.m., the meeting was adjourned as there was no further business to come before the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

Senator Kim Hammer
Co-Chair, Senate

Representative DeAnn Vaught
Co-Chair, House