

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
Meeting Jointly
Wednesday, May 6, 2026
15 Minutes Upon Adjournment of Both Chambers
Room B, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Scott Flippo, Chair; Alan Clark, Jim Dotson, Kim Hammer, Dan Sullivan, and Clarke Tucker; Representatives Jimmy Gazaway, Chair; Rick Beck, Vice-Chair; Howard M. Beaty, Jr., John P. Carr, Nicole Clowney, Andrew Collins, Cindy Crawford, Denise Jones Ennett, Wayne Long, Julie Mayberry, David Ray, Ryan A. Rose, Kendon Underwood, and Jeremy Wooldridge

Other members present: Representatives Cameron Cooper, Jack Ladyman, Stetson Painter, and Johnny Rye

Representative Gazaway called the meeting to order.

Consideration of a Motion to Approve the October 8, 2025, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit C]

Representative Ray made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Wooldridge, and the motion carried.

Discussion of Death at Southeast Arkansas Human Development Center [Exhibit D]

Lori McDonald, Chief of Staff, Department of Human Services (DHS); Jennifer Brezée, Director, Division of Developmental Disabilities Services, DHS; and Melissa Weatherton, Director of Specialty Medicaid Services, DHS; gave an overview of the incident that occurred with Zachary Moore at the Human Development Center in Warren, updated the committee on the current status of the case, and provided information about the structure, staff, and residents of Human Development Centers. Representative Ennett commented about the lack of communication between Zachary Moore's mother, Angela Stephens, and DHS.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM