EXHIBIT B2

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Meeting Jointly
Wednesday, September 30, 2026
10:00 AM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Alan Clark, Chair; Tyler Dees, Vice-Chair; Blake Johnson, Terry Rice, Brad Simon, and Clarke Tucker; Representatives Carol Dalby, Chair; Howard M. Beaty, Jr., Jon S. Eubanks, Justin Gonzales, Tippi McCullough, Shad Pearce, Joy Springer and Dwight Tosh

Other members present: Senators Jim Dotson, Mark Johnson, and Bryan King; Representatives Fred Allen, Glenn Barnes, Lincoln Barnett, Keith Brooks, Nick Burkes, Paul Childress, Denise Ennett, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Jessie McGruder, Aaron Pilkington, Jay Richardson, Ryan Rose, Johnny Rye, Tara Shephard, Steven Walker, and Jeff Wardlaw

Senator Clark called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve August 25, 2026, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]
Sen. Clark recommended the minutes be approved at next month's meeting.

Discussion of How to Reduce the Number of Prison Beds Needed in Arkansas [Exhibits C1-C3]
Celina Coleman-Hale, Founder, Arkansas Restorative Initiative, and Marybeth Hill, Event Coordinator, ARCHway Institute, discussed the cycle of recidivism involving bed capacity in the prison system and how the pressure for more bed space can be reduced by better use of existing programing, release processes, supervision, treatment, electronic monitoring and community resources.

Jeremy Hutchinson, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Unify.US, proposed various solutions to the prison bed issue including earned time credit, as outlined by the First Step Act, and compassionate release for individuals over the age of 60 who are determined to no longer be a threat to society.

Rep. Dalby made a motion to include bill drafts in the next meeting for committee discussion, seconded by Sen. Clark, and the motion carried.

Jarad Harper, Founder and Executive Director, Shackle Free Ministries, and Sharon Garrett, Executive Director, Safe Haven Ministries, Inc., suggested long-term, faith-based recovery is beneficial to reduce recidivism rates and the need for prison beds.

Victoria Parsons, Citizen, and Brittany Gilmore, Arkansas Ambassador, Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement, discussed various potential prison bed solutions incorporating the Protect Arkansas Act and prevention efforts for Arkansas's youth.

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Carrie Williams, Director of Special Services, City of Faith Reentry Services, and Allen Winkler, Chief Operating Officer, City of Faith Reentry Services, discussed the success of reentry programs in other states and that state investment, ensuring released inmates are granted entry into one of these programs, will reduce recidivism rates. They also reinforced the need for reentry facilities to be accredited and licensed. Paul Chapman, Executive Director, Restore Hope Community Justice Innovations, and Janet Camp, Director of Juvenile Supervision, Restore Hope Community Justice Innovations, explained their program's local alliances and that district courts are often the first to identify future felony offenders and the need for early crisis intervention. Michael Johninson, Executive Director, Compassion in Action Reentry, advocated for the state to continue strengthening and connecting former inmates on the path from incarceration to supervision, treatment, and community-based reentry.

Anika Dixon, Founder and Executive Director, SHEBuild, explained the need for women to have employment, transportation, stable housing, life skills, and a support system when released from prison and how her program helps provide women with these needs. Jim Bell, Owner, Hidden Creek Reentry Center, spoke about how his program helps former inmates obtain documents such as a Social Security card and birth certificate, as well as a vehicle, before leaving the program. Mr. Bell explained that the state should help pay for these programs so that no reentry beds are ever empty.

Dr. Denise Rivkees, P.D., Ph.D., Pharmaceutical Scientist, explained that physical trauma, witnessing crimes, drug and alcohol abuse, heavy metals and malnutrition cause brain injuries, and many of those incarcerated suffer from these injuries or inherited maladies. Dr. Rivkees suggested that the state should speak to specialists about how to treat inmates with these conditions. Marlene Dial Hinson, Citizen, recommended that the state should create a sanctioned recidivism board to ensure the accountability of probation and parole systems.

Kaleem Nazeem, Co-Director, DecARcerate, stated that older inmates should be considered for parole with a streamlined, risk-based review by the Post-Prison Transfer Board and a plan for reentry and care. Teretha Lowe, Citizen, provided personal testimony on how families with older, incarcerated inmate(s) would benefit from this risk-based review. Sarah Moore, Executive Director, Arkansas Justice Reform Coalition, showed how fund diversion, alternative community support, investment in evidenced-based practices, and recognition that pre-trial incarceration leads to harsher sentences and a higher likelihood of reoffending can lead to a reduced need for prison beds and a reduction in recidivism rates in Arkansas. Mela-Sidq Supreme, Citizen, suggested that individuals within one's environment can shape the choices of incarcerated individuals, and employment through 501(c)(3) organizations would provide better environments for former inmates.

Sarah Everett, Policy Director, ACLU Arkansas, discussed the difficulty inmates can face with the Post-Prison Transfer Board and recommended more oversight to ensure that if an inmate is denied parole, the inmate will be given guidance on what they need to do before their next parole hearing.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

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