

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**INDEPENDENT CITIZENS COMMISSION**

January 14, 2015

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The Independent Citizens Commission met Wednesday January 14, 2015, at 8:30 a.m., UALR Bowen School of Law, Friday Courtroom, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission members present: Chair-Mr. Larry Ross, Vice Chair-Mr. Chuck Banks, Mr. Mitch Berry, Ms. Barbara Graves, Mr. Stuart Hill, Ms. Brenda James, and Mr. Stephen Tipton.

Chair Ross, called the meeting to order and acknowledged Commission members.

**Consideration of Minutes from the January 7, 2015, Commission Meeting**  
**Before the Minutes were approved Commissioner Ross had a correction for the minutes which was given to Ms. Jenkins. A motion was made by Commissioner Berry and seconded by Commissioner James to adopt the minutes. The motion carried without objection.**

**Richard Wilson-Assistant Director, Bureau of Legislative Research: (Handout 1)**

Mr. Wilson presented information on Gray and Contiguous states to the commission.

**Judge Womack (Handout 2)**

Judge Womack of the Arkansas Judicial Council gave a presentation giving a general picture of the areas and cases covered by Judicial Judges along with background and comparative data. Judge Womack's handout consisted of Court structure, Factors to consider when establishing judicial salaries, comparison of state employee salaries, Regional trends in salaries and Constitutional Officers fund from FY 2010- 2014

**Judge Mark Pate (Handout 3)**

Judge Pate presented information in various duties, areas covered and cases handled of the State District Judges. Judge Pate will like to stay on the January 29<sup>th</sup> agenda.

**Brandon Sharp, State Budget Administrator (Handout 4)**

Mr. Sharp presented additional information on the State budget. The commission received handouts on the State central services fund, projected revenues and expenditures 2014-2017, total general revenue expenditures for FY 2006-2014 and State employee pay increases from 1977-2015.

**Representative Kim Hendren:**

Representative Hendren gave his opinion on salary increases for the General Assembly.

**Ms. Bettina Brownstein (Handout 5)**

Ms. Brownstein and Mr. John Burnett with Arkansas Public Law Center gave additional information on General Assembly. Ms. Brownstein gave the commission handouts on Accountable Reimbursement Plan, Guidelines and Discussions of Legislative Expenses, along with the settlement agreement and release that was the result of a lawsuit filed against the General Assembly. Commission asked that Ms. Brownstein give a proposal on the per diem, mileage and salaries and email that proposal to the commission.

**Commission Discussion:**

Commissioners discussed what states should be used to compare with Arkansas for the next meeting. After discussion the commission decided on the following 5 states: Iowa, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Missouri. Commissioner Hill would like a report of the 5 chosen states on their salaries, per diem, mileage, and expenses. Ms. Jenkins will put together that report.

**Commissioner Hill made a motion to compare the following states with Arkansas: Iowa, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Louisiana, and Missouri. Commissioner Berry seconded. Motion carried without objection.**

**Consideration of the Agenda for January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting:**

There are no presentations for January 16<sup>th</sup>.

Upcoming meeting dates are as follows:

- Friday, January 16, 2015-Bowen School of Law
- Monday January 26, 2015- U of A Cammack Village
- Tuesday January 27, 2015- U of A Cammack Village
- Wednesday January 28, 2015- U of A Cammack Village
- Thursday, January 29, 2015 - U of A Cammack Village
- Friday, January 30, 2015- U of A Cammack Village
- Monday, February 2, 2015 - U of A Cammack Village

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.