STATE OF ARKANSAS
House of Representatives

Newsletter From Rep. Tracy Steele

District 72

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Committees Review Maternal Health Rules

From reviewing proposed healthcare rules to tracking revenue trends and conducting vital audits, it has been a busy and productive week at the Capitol.

The Department of Finance and Administration released the May General Revenue Report, providing an updated view of the state's financial outlook. The Official General Revenue Forecast, revised on May 21, 2025, takes into account the delayed income tax payments following the federal and state extensions granted due to severe storms. As a result, many individual and corporate income tax payments typically received in May and June are now expected to arrive by July 31.

Despite this delay, the revised forecast projects a year-end surplus of $214.8 million. Net Available General Revenues currently total $5.9 billion, which is $244.6 million—or 4.0%—below levels at this time last year. Eleven months into the fiscal year, revenue remains above forecast by $17.1 million, or 0.3%.

On the policy front, the House and Senate Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committees convened on Wednesday to review important proposed rules from the Department of Human Services. These rules are part of the Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies Act of 2025, which aims to enhance maternal and infant care in Arkansas. One rule grants presumptive Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women, helping ensure immediate access to care while eligibility is formally confirmed. Another proposed rule modernizes reimbursement rates and claims processes for prenatal, delivery, and postpartum services, helping providers deliver care more efficiently and effectively. Committees also reviewed amendments to Arkansas' surface water quality standards, part of the state's responsibility under the federal Clean Water Act.

Finally, the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee and its subcommittees held meetings to continue their essential oversight work. This committee plays a critical role in examining the financial operations of state entities—from agencies to commissions—and ensures transparency and accountability for how taxpayer dollars are spent.