

Meeting Minutes of the Arkansas Motor Vehicle Commission

Business Meeting
900 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 400
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

June 18, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Arkansas Motor Vehicle Commission was called to order on June 18, 2025, at 9:28 a.m. by Commission Chair Joy Blankenship.

ATTENDEES

The commissioners in attendance included Commission Chair Joy Blankenship, Michael Johnson, Scott Wood, Jimmy Jones, Clay Maxey, and Michael Moix. Commissioner Jerel Saeler was excused from attending the meeting due to a personal schedule conflict. Staff present included Director Daniel Pace, Licensing Supervisor Alexis Dunlap, and Investigators Margie Sexton and John Aquilino. Other attendees included Assistant Attorney General Aaron Lowrey, Assistant Attorney General Andrew Kutcher, Bobbie Johnson, Donna Jones, and Scottie Walbeck of Golf Cart Elite. This Commission meeting was broadcast on AR-CAN Arkansas PBS.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from Wednesday, May 21, 2025, the regularly scheduled meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved by the Commission following a proper motion by Michael Johnson and a second by Jimmy Jones.

REPORTS AND INFORMATION

Director Pace presented the Financial Revenue and Expenditure Reports for fiscal year 2025. Fiscal year 2025 reflected a revenue deposit total of \$429,132.49 to date. Following a proper motion by Scott Wood and a second by Michael Moix, the Commission unanimously approved the Financial Revenue and Expenditure Reports for fiscal year 2025.

Director Pace presented the Monthly License Activity Reports, License Renewal Reports, Dealer and Lessor License Renewal Summary, Manufacturer & Distributor License Renewal Summary, and Voluntary License Surrender Reports. Director Pace noted the addition of three new licensed franchise dealers: Platinum Trailer Group, River Valley Golf Carts – Conway, and SS Custom Golf Carts LLC. In addition, one new manufacturer was licensed, Phoenix Building Solutions. Director Daniel Pace noted updates to Dealer and Lessor license renewals, stating that there are only two

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expired franchise dealer licenses at present, Moped U and White River ATV. As of June 18, 2025, there are two distributors and six manufacturers that have expired licenses in the ELP System.

The Investigation Summary Reports compiled by Investigators Margie Sexton and John Aquilino included the time frame of May 2025 through June 2025. There have been investigations into title issues, unlicensed dealers, warranty disputes, and advertising complaints. In addition, 24 noted dealer visits have been conducted from May to June 2025. The investigators have completed 12 advertisement reviews for licensed Franchise Auto Dealers in the 2025 calendar year. The Commission has received 89 total complaints (Formal & Non-Formal) since the first of the year. Investigator John Aquilino provided the Commission with a detailed explanation of C#25-012 Margaret Clift vs. JP Nissan, regarding forged contract documents, fraudulent credit information, and an unauthorized vehicle purchase, which has led to an internal audit and a criminal investigation into alleged Embezzlement by former JP Nissan employees.

LEGAL BRIEFINGS

Assistant Attorney General Aaron Lowrey provided an update on H#25-040 Gentry Chevrolet vs. General Motors. A formal hearing has been set to present the dispute before the full commission on July 23, 2025, and both parties were provided with proper notice of the hearing. The Commission has not been provided with any new updates from either party as of today's date.

Assistant Attorney General Aaron Lowrey presented the case facts for H#25-038 AMVC vs. Icon of Hot Springs/Golf Cart Elite, and he explained the consent agreement, which was signed by the owner, Scottie Walbeck. The consent agreement imposes a penalty of \$1000.00 to be paid within fifteen (15) days following approval by the commission. After discussion, a proper motion was made by Jimmy Jones to approve the consent agreement with Scottie Walbeck and the motion was seconded by Michael Johnson. The commission then unanimously approved the motion. Assistant Attorney General Aaron Lowrey explained that Mr. Walbeck has submitted all required documents and information to complete his New Franchise Dealer license application. A proper motion was made by Michael Johnson to approve of the issuance of a New Franchise Dealer license to Golf Cart Elite and the motion was seconded by Jimmy Jones. The commission then unanimously approved the motion.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Director Pace presented four (4) Voluntary License Surrender Agreements from license holders no longer conducting business in the state of Arkansas (listed under Section 6A on the agenda). The listed license holders requested that the license presented be terminated, and they all acknowledged that if they wish to engage in business in the state of Arkansas after the license has been terminated, they must apply for a new license through the Arkansas Motor Vehicle

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Commission. After a proper motion to approve all Voluntary License Surrender Agreements listed under Section 6A on the Agenda by Michael Johnson and a second by Scott Wood, the Commission unanimously approved the motion.

Director Pace presented a request to waive late fees due from MopedU for the 2025 licensing period. Following a proper motion by Jimmy Jones and a second by Michael Johnson, the Commission unanimously approved the waiver of one month of late fees for MopedU for the 2025 licensing period.

Director Pace provided an update and explanation to the Commission with respect to the Automotive Technologist Education Grant Program (ATEGP). At the previous regularly scheduled meeting the Commission approved full funding for 11 education programs, and the total amount awarded was \$250,000.00 for 2025. The Commission staff have provided all relevant information to the Department of Finance & Administration to request the appropriate grant warrants, and the grant warrants should be issued before the end of Fiscal Year 2025 to all 11 applicants approved for funding.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a proper motion by Michael Johnson and a second by Jimmy Jones, Chair Joy Blankenship thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 10:20 A.M. on June 18, 2025, by unanimous approval of the Commission.

Minutes submitted by:



Alexis Dunlap and Daniel Pace

20 August 2025

Date

Minutes Approved by:



Commission Chair Joy Blankenship

20 August 2025

Date