

As Engrossed: 3/14/91

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **78th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1991**
4 **By: *Joint Budget Committee***

A Bill

SENATE BILL 669

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO CREATE THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE
9 ORGANIZATION, TO MAKE A STUDY OF LEGISLATIVE PROCESS,
10 PROCEDURES, RULES, AND PHYSICAL FACILITIES IN THE STATE,
11 AND TO REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
12 SEVENTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY; TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR
13 THE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT SUCH STUDY; AND FOR OTHER
14 PURPOSES."

15

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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18 WHEREAS, the legislative branch of government has the primary
19 responsibility for raising revenues to support state services and to provide
20 for and regulate the spending of such revenues; and

21 WHEREAS, the legislative branch has the responsibility of establishing
22 statewide policies and of overseeing the work of the executive department and
23 its various branches; and

24 WHEREAS, the General Assembly is desirous of improving processes,
25 procedures, rules and facilities in order that it may more efficiently and
26 effectively carry out the functions and duties placed upon it by the Arkansas
27 Constitution,

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29 NOW THEREFORE,

30 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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32 SECTION 1. There is hereby created the "Committee on Legislative
33 Organization". The committee shall be composed of nine (9) members of the
34 House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, and nine (9)
35 members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate.

1 Members of the committee shall be appointed on or before the thirtieth (30th)
2 day after sine die adjournment of the regular session of the Seventy-Eighth
3 General Assembly.

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5 SECTION 2. The committee shall hold its first meeting within sixty (60)
6 days after adjournment sine die of the regular session of the Seventy-Eighth
7 General Assembly. Such meeting shall be held in the Capitol Building in
8 Little Rock, Arkansas. At the first meeting of the committee, it shall select
9 from its membership a chairman and vice chairman, and such other officers as
10 it shall deem appropriate. At the first meeting, the committee shall adopt
11 such rules as it shall deem appropriate for the proper and efficient
12 transacting of its business and the keeping of records of the business
13 transacted by the committee, and shall conduct such other business and take
14 such other action as it shall determine.

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16 SECTION 3. All subsequent meetings of the committee shall be at the
17 call of the chairman upon his own motion, or upon request by any seven (7)
18 members of the committee. Written notice shall be given by regular mail to
19 all members of the committee of each and every regular or special meeting of
20 the committee, mailed at least five (5) days prior the date of the meeting.

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22 SECTION 4. It is the duty and responsibility of the Committee on
23 Legislative Organization to make a study of the organization, rules,
24 procedures, practices, personnel, staffing, finances, physical facilities and
25 equipment, and powers of the Arkansas General Assembly, and to report its
26 findings and recommendations to the Seventy-Ninth General Assembly, together
27 with recommended bills, rules, and practices, to accomplish and carry out the
28 recommendations of the committee.

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30 SECTION 5. A majority of the members of the committee shall constitute
31 a quorum at all meetings, but all final recommendations of the committee shall
32 be approved by a majority vote of the full membership of the committee.

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34 SECTION 6. The Director of the Bureau of Legislative Research shall be
35 the disbursing officer for all funds appropriated or otherwise received by the
36 committee for the purpose of carrying out the purposes of the study provided

1 for herein, and each voucher or check drawn upon the funds appropriated in
2 this act or otherwise received by the committee pursuant to the authority
3 granted herein shall bear the signature of the Director of the Bureau of
4 Legislative Research and the chairman of the committee.

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6 SECTION 7. Upon request of the committee, the staff of the Arkansas
7 Bureau of Legislative Research shall furnish clerical and secretarial
8 assistance to the committee and shall otherwise cooperate with and assist the
9 committee upon request. The committee is authorized to utilize the services,
10 personnel, facilities, and assistance of all state agencies, departments,
11 institutions and offices, including the institutions of higher learning in the
12 state. Such agencies, institutions, departments, offices and institutions of
13 higher learning shall upon request of the committee, cooperate with and assist
14 the committee in carrying out its functions, duties and purposes. The
15 committee may, in its discretion, employ or contract with any individuals,
16 organizations, firms, or institutes to conduct a study or studies, to solicit
17 ideas, information and recommendations from all members of the General
18 Assembly and to accumulate and compile such other information as the committee
19 may determine, and which may be helpful to the committee in conducting the
20 study provided for herein.

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22 SECTION 8. The committee is hereby authorized to receive contributions
23 and donations of funds, facilities, or services, to assist or help defray the
24 expenses of the committee in conducting the study provided for herein. Any
25 funds received by the committee through donations shall be deposited in a bank
26 account and shall be expended only for carrying out the official business of
27 the committee as provided in this act and all expenditures of such funds shall
28 be upon signature of the chairman of the committee and the Director of the
29 Bureau of Legislative Research.

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31 SECTION 9. Each member of the committee shall be entitled to seventy-
32 four dollars (\$74.00) for each day actually engaged in attending meetings and
33 otherwise carrying out the official business of the committee, and shall be
34 entitled to mileage at the rate authorized for state employees for each mile
35 traveled in attending meetings and carrying out the official business of the
36 committee. Provided, no member of the committee shall be entitled to receive

1 any per diem or mileage for attending any business of the committee other than
2 attending regular or special meetings of the committee unless such per diem
3 and mileage are previously authorized by a vote of the committee at a regular
4 or special meeting thereof. Provided further, no member of the committee
5 shall be entitled to receive per diem or mileage for attending meetings of the
6 committee or otherwise attending the business of the committee during any
7 regular or special session of the General Assembly.

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9 SECTION 10. The committee shall prepare and cause to be published a
10 written report setting forth the findings and recommendations of the committee
11 and shall furnish a copy of such report to each member of the General Assembly
12 on or before August 1, 1992.

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14 SECTION 11. There is hereby appropriated, to be payable from the State
15 Central Services Fund, to the Committee on Legislative Organization to conduct
16 a study of the organization, rules, procedures, practices, personnel,
17 staffing, finances, physical facilities and equipment, and powers of the
18 Arkansas General Assembly, to contract with or employ individuals,
19 organizations, firms or other entities to conduct a study, accumulate and
20 compile information for the committee, and to defray the expenses of
21 publishing and distributing the final report of the committee, for the
22 biennial period ending June 30, 1993, the sum of \$ 250,000.

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24 SECTION 12. The Committee on Legislative Organization shall expire and
25 cease to exist upon adjournment sine die of the Regular Session of the
26 Seventy-Ninth General Assembly.

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28 SECTION 13. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent
29 nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas
30 Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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32 SECTION 14. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
33 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
34 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
35 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
36 act are declared to be severable.

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SECTION 15. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 16. EMERGENCY. It is hereby found and determined by the General Assembly that there is an urgent need for a thorough and complete study and evaluation of legislative organization, processes, procedures, financing, staffing, and facilities of the Arkansas General Assembly, to determine the need for and methods of improving legislative processes in this state; that this act is designed to provide for such study and recommendations for improving the legislative processes, and therefore should be given effect immediately in order that this study can be made as soon as possible. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this act being necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

/s/Russ