

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2003
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2636

5 By: Representative Mahony
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL
10 CONDUCT BIENNIAL BUDGET HEARINGS AFTER CONVENING
11 THE REGULAR SESSIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12

Subtitle

13 TO PROVIDE THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
14 SHALL CONDUCT BIENNIAL BUDGET HEARINGS
15 AFTER CONVENING THE REGULAR SESSIONS.
16
17

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 10-2-101 is amended to read as follows:
21 10-2-101. Time for meeting.

22 (a) The General Assembly shall meet in regular biennial session at
23 12:00 noon on the second Monday in January in each odd-numbered year.
24 ~~However, in any odd-numbered year following the election of a nonincumbent~~
25 ~~governor, the General Assembly upon convening at 12:00 noon on the second~~
26 ~~Monday in January may remain in session only for such time, not to exceed two~~
27 ~~(2) days, as is necessary to open and publish the votes for various~~
28 ~~constitutional offices, to swear in the state constitutional officers and~~
29 ~~members of the General Assembly, to organize and select officers, and to~~
30 ~~otherwise prepare for the regular session. It may then stand in recess for a~~
31 ~~period of not to exceed thirty (30) days.~~

32 (b) The first week of the regular session shall be devoted to
33 declaring the election results, election of officers, appointment of
34 committees and committee chairs, and such other organizational business as
35 the chambers deem appropriate.

36 (c)(1) Beginning at 12:00 noon on the third Monday in January of each



1 odd-numbered year, the Joint Budget Committee shall commence biennial budget
 2 hearings which shall be completed within four (4) weeks after that date.

3 (2) During the four-week period, final action shall not be taken
 4 on any bill other than bills to appropriate moneys to pay the expenses of the
 5 session unless authorized by a three-fourths (3/4ths) vote of both chambers.

6 (d) No bill may be introduced after March 1 during a regular session
 7 unless authorized by a three-fourths (3/4ths) vote of both chambers.

8
 9 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 10-3-214(a) is amended to read as follows:

10 (a) In addition to the functions and duties of the Legislative Council
 11 which are prescribed by law, it shall be the responsibility of the
 12 Legislative Council, in order to coordinate the efforts of the interim
 13 committees and to avoid duplication of effort by the committees, to review
 14 and screen all study resolutions referred by the General Assembly and all
 15 study proposals sponsored by members of the General Assembly during the
 16 interim and approved by the Legislative Council. It shall either refer the
 17 study resolutions or study proposals to the appropriate interim committee for
 18 study or in unusual cases retain the study proposal or resolution and conduct
 19 the study. Nothing in §§ 10-3-201–10-3-208, 10-3-212–10-3-214, and 10-3-216,
 20 however, shall be construed to alter or diminish the exclusive interim ~~and~~
 21 ~~pre-session budget~~ jurisdiction and authority of the Legislative Council as
 22 now prescribed by law.

23
 24 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 10-3-218 is repealed.

25 ~~10-3-218. Budget hearings—Attendance by members of the General~~
 26 ~~Assembly.~~

27 ~~(a) During the pre-session budget hearings conducted by the Legislative~~
 28 ~~Council and the Joint Budget Committee preceding each regular biennial~~
 29 ~~session, the cochairs of the Legislative Council shall cause copies of the~~
 30 ~~budget hearing agendas to be furnished to each member of the General Assembly~~
 31 ~~in order that all members of the Senate and House of Representatives will be~~
 32 ~~advised of the times when such hearings are conducted and of the budget~~
 33 ~~requests to be heard or considered each day of the hearings.~~

34 ~~(b) All members of the Senate and House who will be serving in the~~
 35 ~~upcoming regular biennial session of the General Assembly, including the~~
 36 ~~newly elected members of the Senate and House, shall be entitled to attend~~

~~any or all biennial pre-session budget hearings conducted by the Legislative Council and the Committee and shall be entitled to receive per diem and mileage for attending such meetings at the same rate as is provided for attendance at meetings of interim committees of the General Assembly.~~

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 10-3-308 is repealed.

~~10-3-308. Pre-session budget briefings—Compensation.~~

~~(a)(1) The Legislative Council is authorized to conduct or cause to be conducted budget briefings for members and members-elect of the General Assembly during the pre-session budget hearings conducted by the Legislative Council and the Joint Budget Committee preceding each regular session of the General Assembly for the purpose of informing interested members and members-elect of the General Assembly concerning budget requests, executive recommendations, and Legislative Council and Committee recommendations regarding the budgets for the various state agencies, institutions, departments, and programs.~~

~~(2) If at any time during the Legislative Council and Committee biennial hearings preceding each regular session of the General Assembly it appears that there is not sufficient interest or attendance by members and members-elect of the General Assembly to justify continuation of budget briefings, the chairs and co-vice chairs of the Legislative Council are authorized to terminate any further briefings during that particular biennial budget session.~~

~~(b) Each member of the General Assembly who will serve during the upcoming regular session of the General Assembly and each member-elect of the General Assembly shall be entitled to attend the budget briefings conducted pursuant to the provisions of this section. Each member attending the budget briefings shall be entitled to per diem and mileage for attending briefings at the rate prescribed by law for members of the General Assembly who attend meetings of the interim committees of the General Assembly, to be payable from moneys appropriated for payment of per diem and mileage for attendance at meetings of interim committees.~~

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 10-3-507 and 508 are repealed.

~~10-3-507. Pre-session budget hearings.~~

~~(a) The members appointed to serve on the Joint Budget Committee at~~

~~the next following regular session of the General Assembly, who are not members of the Legislative Council, shall be privileged to attend all pre-session budget hearings of the Legislative Council held after the October 1 preceding the next regular session of the General Assembly.~~

~~(b) All such members of the Joint Budget Committee who are not regular members of the Legislative Council shall be given notice of all pre-session budget hearings scheduled by the Legislative Council and shall be privileged to attend the budget hearings and to participate therein and vote on budget recommendations the same as regular members of the Legislative Council.~~

~~(c) The members shall be entitled to receive per diem and mileage for attendance at such pre-session budget hearings of the Legislative Council at the same rates provided by law for attendance at meetings of the interim committees of the General Assembly, and payment therefor shall be made as follows:~~

~~(1) Regular members of the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee who are appointed to the Legislative Council shall receive per diem and mileage for attendance at Legislative Council pre-session budget hearings from funds appropriated for the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee;~~

~~(2) Members of either house of the General Assembly who are not regular members of the Legislative Council or regular members of the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee shall receive the per diem and mileage from funds appropriated for the payment of per diem and mileage for attendance at meetings of the interim committees of the General Assembly; and~~

~~(3) Members of the Legislative Council shall receive per diem and mileage from funds appropriated for the support of the Legislative Council.~~

~~10-3-508. Duties.~~

~~In addition to participation by members of the Joint Budget Committee in the pre-session budget hearings of the Legislative Council, as authorized in § 10-3-507, the Committee, during regular and special sessions of the General Assembly, shall perform any duties as are provided by the Joint Rules of the House of Representatives and Senate.~~

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 12-12-216 is amended to read as follows:
12-12-216. Carry forward.

1 (a) At the close of each fiscal year, the Director of the Arkansas
 2 Crime Information Center shall certify to the Chief Fiscal Officer of the
 3 State the amount, if any, of unexpended moneys and appropriations in the
 4 Crime Information System Fund, or its successor, resulting from the
 5 reimbursement to the Arkansas Crime Information Center by municipal, county,
 6 state or federal governments for teleprocessing services.

7 (b)(1) Any balance of such moneys and appropriations shall be carried
 8 forward and made available for the maintenance, operation, improvement and
 9 other necessary expenditures in providing teleprocessing services to such
 10 municipal, county, state, and federal agencies served by the Arkansas Crime
 11 Information Center.

12 (2) The total amount which is carried forward under the
 13 provisions of this section shall be reported in the budget manuals which are
 14 presented to the ~~Legislative Council~~ and Joint Budget Committee during the
 15 ~~presession~~ budget hearings which are held ~~in the fall of each even-numbered~~
 16 year during each regular session of the General Assembly.

17
 18 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 19-4-307 is amended to read as follows:
 19 19-4-307. Employment classification information.

20 (a) At the same time a state agency submits a budget request for
 21 ~~presession~~ budget hearings of ~~the Legislative Council~~ and the Joint Budget
 22 Committee, the agency shall also submit the following information for each
 23 employment classification:

- 24 (1) The total number of persons currently employed;
- 25 (2) The number of white male employees;
- 26 (3) The number of white female employees;
- 27 (4) The total number of Caucasian employees;
- 28 (5) The number of black male employees;
- 29 (6) The number of black female employees;
- 30 (7) The number of other employees who are members of racial
 31 minorities; and
- 32 (8) The total number of minorities currently employed.

33 (b) An agency's budget request shall not be considered by the
 34 ~~Legislative Council~~ or Joint Budget Committee in a ~~presession~~ budget hearing
 35 unless the information required by this section is filed along with the
 36 budget request.