

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009

A Bill

SENATE BILL 802

4
5 By: Senator B. Pritchard
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR FISCAL SESSIONS OF THE
10 GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ODD-NUMBERED YEARS AND
11 REGULAR SESSIONS IN EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS AS
12 AUTHORIZED BY ARKANSAS CONSTITUTION, AMENDMENT
13 86; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
14

Subtitle

15
16 TO PROVIDE FOR FISCAL SESSIONS OF THE
17 GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ODD-NUMBERED YEARS
18 AND REGULAR SESSIONS IN EVEN-NUMBERED
19 YEARS AS AUTHORIZED BY ARKANSAS
20 CONSTITUTION, AMENDMENT 86.
21
22

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
24

25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 10-2-101 is amended to read as follows:
26 10-2-101. Time for meeting.

27 (a) The General Assembly shall meet:

28 (1) in In regular biennial session at 12:00 noon on the second
29 Monday in January in each odd-numbered even-numbered year; and

30 (2) In fiscal session at 12:00 noon on the second Monday in
31 February of each odd-numbered year.

32 (b)(1) However, in any odd-numbered year following the election of a
33 nonincumbent governor, the General Assembly upon convening at 12:00 noon on
34 the second Monday in January may remain in session only for such time not to
35 exceed two (2) days as is necessary to:

36 (A) open Open and publish the votes for various



1 constitutional officers;[;]

2 (B) ~~to swear~~ Swear in the state constitutional officers
3 and members

4 of the General Assembly;[;]

5 (C) ~~to organize~~ Organize and select officers;[;] and

6 (D) ~~to otherwise~~ Otherwise prepare for the ~~regular~~ fiscal
7 session.

8 (2) ~~It~~ The General Assembly may then stand in recess ~~for a~~
9 ~~period of not to exceed thirty (30) days~~ until 12:00 noon on the second
10 Monday in February.

11
12 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 10-2-102(b), concerning duties of the
13 Secretary of the Senate, Clerk of the House, and other officers, is amended
14 to read as follows:

15 (b) The employees of the Senate shall perform such duties during ~~the~~
16 each regular session and fiscal session of the General Assembly and during
17 the interim between the convening of special sessions and the next regular
18 session or fiscal session of the General Assembly as may be provided by the
19 rules of the Senate or by the Senate Efficiency Committee, subject to the
20 approval of the Senate.

21
22 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 10-2-107 is amended to read as follows:
23 10-2-107. Election of Speaker of House in doubt – Procedure.

24 (a) If, after the biennial general election and ~~prior to~~ before the
25 convening of the General Assembly, a statement signed by fifty (50) or more
26 members of the House of Representatives who will serve at the next-following
27 session of the General Assembly is filed with the current Speaker of the
28 House of Representatives stating that the members believe that the formal
29 election of the new Speaker of the House is in doubt, ~~then~~ the current
30 Speaker of the House shall call a one-day organizational meeting of all
31 members and members-elect of the House of Representatives who will serve at
32 the next ~~regular~~ fiscal session of the General Assembly. This meeting shall
33 be held for the single purpose of designating the Speaker of the House for
34 the next General Assembly.

35 (b) If the special organizational meeting of members of the House of
36 Representatives is called, all members and members-elect of the House of

1 Representatives who will serve at the next-following ~~regular~~ fiscal session
2 of the General Assembly shall be entitled to receive per diem and mileage for
3 attending the meeting.

4
5 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 10-2-112(a), concerning the prefiling of
6 bills and resolutions, is amended to read as follows:

7 (a)(1) The Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives and the
8 Secretary of the Senate, under the direction and supervision of the Speaker
9 of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate,
10 shall establish a system for the prefiling of bills and resolutions beginning
11 on November 15 of each year preceding a regular session or a fiscal session
12 of the General Assembly.

13 (2) Under that presession filing system, each member-elect of
14 the General Assembly and holdover member of the Senate who will be serving at
15 the next-following ~~regular~~ fiscal session of the General Assembly shall be
16 permitted to prefile bills and resolutions for the next ~~regular~~ fiscal
17 session as soon as the members-elect of the next General Assembly are
18 certified to the Secretary of State.

19
20 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 10-2-113(b), concerning the consideration
21 of gubernatorial appointments by the Senate, is amended to read as follows:

22 (b)(1) The Governor shall submit to the Senate within thirty (30) days
23 after the General Assembly convenes in regular session the names of all
24 appointments to boards and commissions of this state made subsequent to
25 adjournment of the Senate at the last regular session of the General
26 Assembly.

27 (2) Upon the convening of a fiscal session or a special session
28 of the General Assembly, the Governor shall immediately submit the names of
29 all appointments to boards and commissions of this state made subsequent to
30 adjournment of the Senate at the last regular session or special session of
31 the General Assembly.

32 (3) All appointments of members of boards and commissions of
33 this state made while the General Assembly is in session shall be submitted
34 immediately to the Senate.

35
36 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 10-2-123(a), concerning the Institute of

Legislative Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The General Assembly ~~hereby~~ determines that the conducting of an Institute of Legislative Procedure ~~prior to~~ before the convening of ~~regular~~ fiscal sessions of the General Assembly on rules and legislative procedure and current fiscal conditions and other problems in state government is essential to the proper functioning of each ~~regular~~ session of the General Assembly.

SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 10-2-127(b), concerning fiscal impact statements, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Any bill filed in the House of Representatives or the Senate that will impose a new or increased cost obligation for education in grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) on the State of Arkansas or any local school district shall have a fiscal impact statement attached to it prepared and filed with the chair of the committee to which the bill is referred:

(1) At least three (3) days before the bill may be called up for final action in the committee during a regular session of the General Assembly; and

(2) At least one (1) day before the bill may be called up for final action in the committee during a fiscal session or a special session of the General Assembly.

SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 10-2-131 is amended to read as follows:
10-2-131. Internet broadcast of proceedings.

(a) During regular sessions, fiscal sessions, and special sessions of the General Assembly, the House of Representatives and the Senate may broadcast live audio and video of their proceedings on the Internet.

~~(b) This requirement includes only proceedings~~ Subsection (a) of this section applies only to proceedings held in the House Chamber and the Senate Chamber.

SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 10-2-212(d)(3), concerning certain financial elections by members of the General Assembly, is amended to read as follows:

(3)(A) The election must occur ~~prior to~~ before the fifth day of a ~~regular~~ fiscal session of the General Assembly, and the election shall

1 remain in effect until a subsequent election is made at the next ~~regular~~
 2 fiscal session of the General Assembly.

3 (B) However, if the maximum amount of reimbursement is
 4 altered by law, the member of the General Assembly shall make the election
 5 within thirty (30) days after the law becomes effective, and the election
 6 shall remain in effect until a subsequent election is made at the next
 7 ~~regular~~ fiscal session of the General Assembly.

8
 9 SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 10-2-217(b)(2)(B), concerning the
 10 definition of "other interim legislative duties as authorized by law", is
 11 amended to read as follows:

12 (B) Attendance by members and members-elect of the General
 13 Assembly at the biennial Institute of Legislative Procedure held preceding
 14 the convening of each ~~regular~~ fiscal session of the General Assembly, as
 15 authorized by law; and

16
 17 SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 10-3-209(a), concerning expenses of
 18 members of the General Assembly, is amended to read as follows:

19 (a) The Director of the Bureau of Legislative Research shall be the
 20 disbursing officer of the funds appropriated for paying per diem, expenses,
 21 and mileage to members of the General Assembly attending ~~regular and special~~
 22 meetings during regular sessions, fiscal sessions, and special sessions of
 23 the General Assembly and attending other committee-related activities of the
 24 interim committees of the General Assembly as provided by law, unless
 25 specific provisions are made to the contrary.

26
 27 SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 10-3-218 is amended to read as follows:
 28 10-3-218. Budget hearings – Attendance by members of the General
 29 Assembly.

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

1 considered each day of the hearings.

2 (b) All members of the Senate and House who will be serving in the
3 upcoming regular ~~biennial~~ session or fiscal session of the General Assembly,
4 including the newly elected members of the Senate and House, shall be
5 entitled to attend any or all biennial presession budget hearings conducted
6 by the Legislative Council and the Joint Budget Committee and shall be
7 entitled to receive per diem and mileage for attending such meetings at the
8 same rate as is provided for attendance at meetings of interim committees of
9 the General Assembly.

10
11 SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 10-3-301(d)(2), concerning membership of
12 the Legislative Council, is amended to read as follows:

13 (2) The designation of first and second alternate members by the
14 President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall be made ~~prior to~~ before adjournment
15 of each ~~regular~~ fiscal session of the General Assembly.

16
17 SECTION 14. Arkansas Code § 10-3-303(c)(2), concerning the duties of
18 the Bureau of Legislative Research, is amended to read as follows:

19 (2) Assist all members of the General Assembly upon request
20 while the General Assembly is in regular session, fiscal session, or special
21 session in drafting bills and resolutions, and making studies, preparing
22 factual information, and by performing other services for members of the
23 General Assembly as may be reasonably requested and which are in aid of the
24 performance of the legislative duties of the members of the General Assembly;

25
26 SECTION 15. Arkansas Code § 10-3-304 is amended to read as follows:

27 10-3-304. Sessions – Studies – Cooperation of state agencies.

28 (a)(1) The Legislative Council shall convene at any time during the
29 interim between regular sessions, fiscal sessions, or special sessions of the
30 General Assembly and shall remain in session for such time as it considers
31 necessary for the consideration of all matters relating to state government,
32 not however, for more than a total of ninety (90) days which need not be
33 continuous.

34 (2) The Legislative Council shall convene and hold its sessions
35 at the State Capitol at the seat of government or at other places as the
36 Legislative Council may determine, and ample notice of all sessions thereof

1 shall be given by the Executive Secretary to the Legislative Council in
2 advance of the sessions.

3 (b) The Legislative Council shall undertake such studies or
4 investigations as may be directed by the General Assembly or either house
5 thereof. In addition, any member of the General Assembly shall be privileged
6 when the General Assembly is not in session to submit resolutions or study
7 proposals to the Legislative Council for its consideration, study, and
8 recommendations.

9 (c) The Legislative Council shall report any findings and
10 recommendations to each regular session, fiscal session, or special session
11 of the General Assembly for the repeal or amendment of existing laws or for
12 the enactment of new laws with respect to the operation of the state
13 government or with respect to any matter that is a subject for legislative
14 consideration.

15 (d) All departments and agencies of the state government are directed
16 to cooperate with the Legislative Council and with the Bureau of Legislative
17 Research in providing assistance, information, or data when requested so that
18 the General Assembly might be fully advised of all matters with respect to
19 the operation of the various state agencies, departments, and institutions.
20

21 SECTION 16. Arkansas Code § 10-3-308 is amended to read as follows:

22 10-3-308. Presession budget briefings – Compensation.

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

32 (2) If at any time during the ~~Legislative Council and Committee~~
33 ~~biennial~~ budget hearings conducted by the Legislative Council and the Joint
34 Budget Committee preceding each regular session and fiscal session of the
35 General Assembly it appears that there is not sufficient interest or
36 attendance by members and members-elect of the General Assembly to justify

1 continuation of budget briefings, the chairs and co-vice chairs of the
 2 Legislative Council ~~are authorized to~~ may terminate any further briefings
 3 during that particular biennial budget session.

4 (b)(1) Each member of the General Assembly who will serve during the
 5 upcoming regular session and fiscal session of the General Assembly and each
 6 member-elect of the General Assembly ~~shall be~~ is entitled to attend the
 7 budget briefings conducted ~~pursuant to the provisions of~~ under this section.

8 (2) Each member of the General Assembly attending the budget
 9 briefings ~~shall be conducted under this section~~ is entitled to per diem and
 10 mileage for attending the budget briefings at the rate prescribed by law for
 11 members of the General Assembly who attend meetings of the interim committees
 12 of the General Assembly, to be payable from moneys appropriated for payment
 13 of per diem and mileage for attendance at meetings of interim committees of
 14 the General Assembly.

15
 16 SECTION 17. Arkansas Code § 10-3-507(a), concerning presession budget
 17 hearings, is amended to read as follows:

18 (a) The members of the General Assembly appointed to serve on the
 19 Joint Budget Committee at the next-following regular session or fiscal
 20 session of the General Assembly who are not members of the Legislative
 21 Council ~~shall be privileged to~~ may attend all presession budget hearings of
 22 the Legislative Council held after the October 1 preceding the next regular
 23 session or fiscal session of the General Assembly.

24
 25 SECTION 18. Arkansas Code § 10-3-508 is amended to read as follows:
 26 10-3-508. Duties.

27 In addition to participation by members of the Joint Budget Committee
 28 in the presession budget hearings of the Legislative Council, as authorized
 29 in § 10-3-507, the Joint Budget Committee during regular sessions, fiscal
 30 sessions, and special sessions of the General Assembly shall perform any
 31 duties as are provided by the Joint Rules of the House of Representatives and
 32 the Senate.

33
 34 SECTION 19. Arkansas Code § 10-3-603(a)(1), concerning the Joint
 35 Committee on Legislative Printing Requirements and Specifications, is amended
 36 to read as follows:

(a)(1) The Joint Committee on Legislative Printing Requirements and Specifications shall meet subsequent to the adjournment of each regular session and fiscal session of the General Assembly, at a time to be determined jointly by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and shall select from its membership two (2) cochairs, one (1) cochair to be a member of the House of Representatives to be elected by the members of the ~~committee~~ Joint Committee on Legislative Printing Requirements and Specifications who are members of the House of Representatives and one (1) cochair to be a Senator to be elected by the members of the ~~committee~~ Joint Committee on Legislative Printing Requirements and Specifications who are members of the Senate.

SECTION 20. Arkansas Code § 10-3-701 is amended to read as follows:

10-3-701. Creation – Members.

(a) There is established a joint committee of the House of Representatives and the Senate to be known as the “Joint Committee on Public Retirement and Social Security Programs”, to consist of twenty (20) members.

(b)(1) The ten (10) House members and ten (10) House alternates shall be selected as prescribed by House Rules.

(2) The House ~~cochair~~ Cochair and House ~~co-vice chair~~ Co-vice Chair of the ~~joint committee~~ Joint Committee on Public Retirement and Social Security Programs shall be selected in accordance with the ~~Rules of the House of Representatives.~~ House Rules.

(3) In addition to the regular House members appointed under ~~subsection (b) of this section,~~ this subsection the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint, during each ~~regular~~ fiscal session ~~of the General Assembly,~~ appoint one (1) additional House member from each caucus district to serve as a nonvoting member of the ~~joint committee~~ Joint Committee on Public Retirement and Social Security Programs only during the interim between sessions of the General Assembly.

(c)(1) At the commencement of each ~~regular~~ fiscal session of the General Assembly, ten (10) members of the Senate shall be named pursuant to the Senate Rules to serve on the ~~joint committee~~ Joint Committee on Public Retirement and Social Security Programs. Vacancies shall be filled pursuant to the Senate Rules.

(2) Pursuant to the Senate Rules, one (1) Senate member of the

1 ~~joint committee~~ Joint Committee on Public Retirement and Social Security
 2 Programs shall be designated to serve as Senate ~~cochair~~ Cochair of the ~~joint~~
 3 ~~committee~~ Joint Committee on Public Retirement and Social Security Programs
 4 and one (1) Senate member shall be designated to serve as Senate ~~vice chair~~
 5 Vice Chair of the ~~joint committee~~ Joint Committee on Public Retirement and
 6 Social Security Programs.

7
 8 SECTION 21. Arkansas Code § 10-3-703(a) and (b), concerning joint
 9 interim committees, is amended to read as follows:

10 (a) Upon adjournment of each regular session, fiscal session, and
 11 special session of the General Assembly, the Joint Committee on Public
 12 Retirement and Social Security Programs is designated and constituted as a
 13 joint interim committee of the General Assembly to be known as the "Joint
 14 Interim Committee on Public Retirement and Social Security Programs".

15 (b) The ~~joint interim committee~~ Joint Interim Committee on Public
 16 Retirement and Social Security Programs shall consist of the members
 17 appointed to the ~~joint committee~~ Joint Committee on Public Retirement and
 18 Social Security Programs during each ~~regular~~ fiscal session of the General
 19 Assembly, and they shall serve thereon until the next following ~~regular~~
 20 fiscal session of the General Assembly, at which time all members shall be
 21 appointed in the manner provided in § 10-3-701.

22
 23 SECTION 22. Arkansas Code § 10-3-802(b), concerning the Joint
 24 Committee on Energy, is amended to read as follows:

25 (b)(1) The ~~committee~~ Joint Committee on Energy shall be a select
 26 committee of the House and Senate whose members shall be chosen as follows:

27 (A)(i) Ten (10) members of the Senate to be named pursuant
 28 to Senate Rules.

29 (ii) Each Senate member is authorized to appoint a
 30 member of the Senate to serve as his or her alternate on the ~~committee~~ Joint
 31 Committee on Energy; and

32 (B)(i) Fifteen (15) members of the House of
 33 Representatives to be selected as prescribed by House Rules.

34 (ii) One (1) alternate member for each of the
 35 fifteen (15) House members shall be selected as prescribed by House Rules.

36 (2)(A) Each Senate member ~~is authorized to~~ may appoint a member

1 of the Senate to serve as his or her alternate on the ~~committee~~ Joint
 2 Committee on Energy; and

3 (B) One (1) alternate member for each of the thirteen (13)
 4 House members shall be selected as prescribed by House Rules.

5 (3) Senate members and alternate Senate members of the ~~committee~~
 6 Joint Committee on Energy shall be appointed at each ~~regular biennial~~ fiscal
 7 session of the General Assembly and shall serve until the convening of the
 8 next ~~regular~~ fiscal session of the General Assembly.

9
 10 SECTION 23. Arkansas Code § 10-3-820 is amended to read as follows:

11 10-3-820. Joint Interim Committee on Energy – Members – Duties.

12 (a)(1) The members of the House of Representatives and the Senate
 13 appointed at each ~~regular~~ fiscal session of the General Assembly to the Joint
 14 Committee on Energy shall constitute a joint interim committee of the General
 15 Assembly to function in the interim between the sine die adjournment or
 16 extended recess of the regular session or fiscal session of each General
 17 Assembly until the convening of the next ~~regular~~ fiscal session of the
 18 General Assembly or reconvening of the current General Assembly during an
 19 extended recess.

20 (2)(A) This joint interim committee shall be known as the “Joint
 21 Interim Committee on Energy” and shall function in addition to the other
 22 interim committees of the General Assembly established by law.

23 (B) ~~In the event If~~ a vacancy ~~shall occur on the joint~~
 24 ~~interim committee~~ occurs on the Joint Interim Committee on Energy, the
 25 vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as provided for the initial
 26 appointment.

27 (b)(1) The ~~joint interim committee~~ Joint Interim Committee on Energy
 28 shall make continuing studies of energy resources and problems, either
 29 initiated by the ~~committee~~ Joint Interim Committee on Energy or referred to
 30 it by either house of the General Assembly for study, in the interim between
 31 sessions of the General Assembly.

32 (2) Interim study proposals and resolutions relating to energy
 33 filed with the Legislative Council under ~~the provisions of~~ § 10-3-214 for
 34 review and referral to the appropriate germane interim committee of the
 35 General Assembly, ~~relating to energy~~, shall be referred to the ~~joint interim~~
 36 ~~committee~~ Joint Interim Committee on Energy.

1 ~~(3) The joint interim committee~~ Joint Interim Committee on
 2 Energy shall undertake each study referred to it by members of the General
 3 Assembly or by the Legislative Council and shall submit a report of its
 4 findings and recommendations in regard to each study request ~~prior to~~ before
 5 the convening of the next ~~regular~~ fiscal session of the General Assembly.

6 (c) In addition, the ~~joint interim committee~~ Joint Interim Committee
 7 on Energy shall exercise leadership in the interim between legislative
 8 sessions and shall attempt to coordinate the various energy activities,
 9 studies, and planning activities of the General Assembly ~~which~~ that relate to
 10 the conservation, development, and use of energy resources for the various
 11 committees of the General Assembly.

12 (d) The ~~committee~~ Joint Interim Committee on Energy shall cooperate
 13 with the Governor, the appropriate administrative agencies of this state,
 14 legislative and administrative agencies of other states, and with the federal
 15 government, including participation in regional and national meetings and
 16 seminars of state and federal officials in the exchange of information and
 17 data on energy resources, supplies, reserves, and in the conservation,
 18 storage, and use of energy, including the disposal of energy waste and by-
 19 products.

20
 21 SECTION 24. Arkansas Code § 10-3-1103 is amended to read as follows:

22 10-3-1103. When committee functions – Administrative responsibilities.

23 ~~(a)~~ (a) The Joint Interim Committee on Legislative Facilities shall
 24 function during the interim between regular sessions, fiscal sessions, or
 25 special sessions of the General Assembly and may function, if necessary,
 26 while the General Assembly is in regular session, fiscal session, special
 27 session, or an extension of a regular session, fiscal session, or special
 28 session, for the purpose of discharging its duties under this subchapter.

29 ~~(b)~~ (b) The ~~committee~~ Joint Interim Committee on Legislative Facilities
 30 shall administer all provisions of this subchapter relating to repairs,
 31 improvements, and furnishing of committee rooms and legislative facilities in
 32 the State Capitol Building, including, if necessary, the payment of rental
 33 required for the housing of state agencies moved from the State Capitol
 34 Building as a result of any project undertaken by the ~~committee~~ Joint Interim
 35 Committee on Legislative Facilities ~~pursuant to the provisions of~~ under this
 36 subchapter until space for the agencies may be provided in other public

1 facilities.

2
3 SECTION 25. Arkansas Code § 10-3-1320 is amended to read as follows:
4 10-3-1320. Interim operation – Vacancies.

5 (a) The Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth shall be
6 composed of ten (10) members appointed pursuant to Senate Rules and shall
7 function in the interim between the sine die adjournment or extended recess
8 of the ~~regular~~ fiscal session of each General Assembly until the convening of
9 the next ~~regular~~ fiscal session of the General Assembly or the convening of
10 the current General Assembly during an extended recess.

11 (b)(1) The ~~committee~~ Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth
12 shall make continuing studies pertaining to the safety, health, development,
13 and problems of children. The studies may either be initiated by the
14 ~~committee~~ Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth or referred to it by
15 either house of the General Assembly for study in the interim between
16 sessions of the General Assembly.

17 (2) Interim study proposals and resolutions relating to
18 children, which are filed with the Legislative Council under ~~the provisions~~
19 ~~of~~ § 10-3-214 for review and referral to the appropriate germane joint
20 interim committee of the General Assembly, shall be referred to the ~~committee~~
21 Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth.

22 (3) The ~~committee~~ Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth
23 shall undertake each study referred to it by members of the General Assembly
24 or by the Legislative Council and shall submit a report of its findings and
25 recommendations in regard to each study request ~~prior to~~ before the convening
26 of the next ~~regular~~ fiscal session of the General Assembly.

27 (c) In addition, the ~~committee~~ Senate Interim Committee on Children
28 and Youth shall exercise leadership in the interim between legislative
29 sessions and shall attempt to coordinate for the various committees of the
30 General Assembly the various activities, studies, and planning activities of
31 the General Assembly ~~which~~ that relate to children and youth, delivery of
32 services to children, and use of funding resources for programs and services.

33 (d) The ~~committee~~ Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth shall
34 cooperate with the Governor, the appropriate administrative agencies of this
35 state, legislative and administrative agencies of other states, and the
36 federal government, including participation in regional and national meetings

1 and seminars of state and federal officials in the exchange of information
 2 and data on children and youth problems and resolution of those problems.

3
 4 SECTION 26. Arkansas Code § 10-3-1704, as amended by Act 248 of 2009,
 5 is amended to read as follows:

6 10-3-1704. Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and Information
 7 Technology – Members – Duties.

8 (a) The members of the House of Representatives and the Senate
 9 appointed at each ~~regular~~ fiscal session of the General Assembly to the Joint
 10 Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology shall
 11 constitute a joint committee of the General Assembly to function during and
 12 in the interim between the sine die adjournment or extended recess of the
 13 ~~regular~~ fiscal session of each General Assembly, until the convening of the
 14 next ~~regular~~ fiscal session of the General Assembly or reconvening of the
 15 current General Assembly, or during an extended recess.

16 (b)(1)(A) The ~~committee~~ Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and
 17 Information Technology shall make continuing studies concerning the
 18 development of access to a statewide public telecommunications network for
 19 distance learning, telemedicine, and universal access for governmental
 20 entities, and other issues concerning advanced communications and information
 21 technology, either initiated by the ~~committee~~ Joint Committee on Advanced
 22 Communications and Information Technology or referred to it by either house
 23 of the General Assembly for study, in the interim between sessions of the
 24 General Assembly.

25 (B)(i) Interim study proposals and resolutions relating to
 26 advanced communications and information technology filed with the Legislative
 27 Council under ~~the provisions of~~ § 10-3-214 for review and referral to the
 28 appropriate germane interim committee of the General Assembly, ~~relating to~~
 29 ~~advanced communications and information technology~~, shall be referred to the
 30 ~~committee~~ Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and Information
 31 Technology.

32 (ii) The ~~committee~~ Joint Committee on Advanced
 33 Communications and Information Technology shall undertake each study referred
 34 to it by members of the General Assembly or by the Legislative Council and
 35 shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations in regard to each
 36 study request to the General Assembly ~~prior to~~ before the convening of the

1 next ~~regular~~ fiscal session of the General Assembly.

2 (iii) The ~~committee~~ Joint Committee on Advanced
3 Communications and Information Technology shall review any plan developed or
4 updated by a public instrumentality.

5 (2) In addition, the ~~committee~~ Joint Committee on Advanced
6 Communications and Information Technology shall exercise leadership in the
7 interim between legislative sessions and shall attempt to coordinate for the
8 various committees of the General Assembly the various activities, studies,
9 and planning activities of the General Assembly ~~which~~ that relate to the
10 development of access to a statewide public telecommunications information
11 infrastructure.

12 (3)(A) ~~The committee shall have the power and authority, upon~~
13 Upon approval of a majority of the members of the ~~committee~~ Joint Committee
14 on Advanced Communications and Information Technology, to the Joint Committee
15 on Advanced Communications and Information Technology may subpoena person,
16 documents, and records.

17 (B) However, no action of the ~~committee~~ Joint Committee on
18 Advanced Communications and Information Technology regarding the exercise of
19 the subpoena power shall be taken except upon notice of at least one (1) week
20 to all members of the ~~committee~~ Joint Committee on Advanced Communications
21 and Information Technology or upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership
22 of the ~~committee~~ Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and Information
23 Technology.

24 (4) The ~~committee~~ Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and
25 Information Technology shall cooperate with the Governor, with public
26 secondary and postsecondary institutions of education, with the appropriate
27 administrative agencies of this state, with legislative and administrative
28 agencies and institutions of other states, and with the federal government
29 and others in the planning and development of access to a statewide public
30 telecommunications infrastructure linking institutions, businesses,
31 government agencies, schools, hospitals, libraries, communities, and other
32 public and private entities to the national information infrastructure.

33 (c) The ~~committee~~ Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and
34 Information Technology shall exercise appropriate legislative oversight of
35 the operations of the Department of Information Systems.
36

1 SECTION 27. Arkansas Code § 10-3-2204(a), concerning meetings of the
2 Academic Facilities Oversight Committee, is amended to read as follows:

3 (a) The Academic Facilities Oversight Committee shall function during
4 the interim between regular sessions, fiscal sessions, or ~~special~~
5 extraordinary sessions of the General Assembly, while the General Assembly is
6 in session, and while the General Assembly is in recess.

7
8 SECTION 28. Arkansas Code § 10-3-2302(c)(1), concerning the Arkansas
9 Legislative Task Force on Abused and Neglected Children, is amended to read
10 as follows:

11 (c)(1) The Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth
12 or the chair's designee shall call the first meeting within ninety (90) days
13 of the adjournment of the ~~regular~~ fiscal session of the General Assembly and
14 shall serve as chair at the first meeting.

15
16 SECTION 29. Arkansas Code § 10-4-405 is amended to read as follows:

17 10-4-405. Employment and removal of Legislative Auditor.

18 (a) The Legislative Auditor shall be employed by a majority vote of
19 the membership of the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee, and the name of
20 the person selected shall be presented to each house of the General Assembly
21 for confirmation by both houses if the General Assembly is in session at the
22 time of the selection.

23 (b)(1) If the Legislative Auditor is selected while the General
24 Assembly is not in session, he or she shall in all respects carry out the
25 functions, powers, and duties as provided in this subchapter until the next
26 regular session or fiscal session of the General Assembly.

27 (2)(A) During the next regular session or fiscal session
28 legislative of the General Assembly session, the name of the person selected
29 as Legislative Auditor shall be presented to both houses of the General
30 Assembly for confirmation.

31 (B) Unless upon the presentation his or her selection is
32 rejected, he or she shall in all respects continue to carry out the
33 functions, powers, and duties as Legislative Auditor.

34 (c) When a vacancy in the position of Legislative Auditor exists, the
35 position shall be filled by the ~~Committee~~ Legislative Joint Auditing
36 Committee by majority action of the ~~Committee~~ Legislative Joint Auditing

1 Committee membership, subject to approval of both houses of the General
2 Assembly at its next regular session or fiscal session.

3 (d) The Legislative Auditor may be removed for cause at any time by a
4 majority vote of the membership of the ~~Committee~~ Legislative Joint Auditing
5 Committee after a public hearing.