

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2017-008

REQUESTING THAT THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CITY, COUNTY, AND LOCAL AFFAIRS CONDUCT AN INTERIM STUDY OF IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS TO EVALUATE PERFORMANCE, BENEFITS, AND EFFICACY.

WHEREAS, citizens of Arkansas cities, towns, and counties are eligible for and participate in the creation of numerous different improvement districts under current Arkansas law; and

WHEREAS, these improvement districts vary in kind and in governance, accountability, and efficiency; and

WHEREAS, the inconsistencies across these improvement districts cause confusion for assessed property owners, create inefficiencies in administration, and in some cases, create opportunities for abuse; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to minimize any confusion and unpredictability associated with these improvement districts, to create more streamlined procedures and accountability methods, and to gain a clearer understanding of improvement districts in general,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CITY, COUNTY, AND LOCAL AFFAIRS OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House Committee on City, County, and Local Affairs conduct an interim study on all improvement districts across the state to include without limitation improvement district performance, operations, property owner participation, ease of accessibility to financial data, governing board or commission demographics, benefits, costs of administration, financial health, and any other matter deemed necessary by the House Committee on City, County, and Local Affairs.

Respectfully submitted,

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Representative Lanny Fite

District 23

By: KLC/JNS