

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2023-007

2 State of Arkansas  
3 94th General Assembly  
4 Regular Session, 2023

JET/SLA  
HR

5  
6 By: Representative Crawford

7 Filed with: Arkansas Legislative Council  
8 pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

9 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

10 TO AMEND THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
11 THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY; TO AMEND THE  
12 PROCESS FOR SELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND VICE-  
13 CHAIRS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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16 **Subtitle**

17 TO AMEND THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF  
18 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH  
19 GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL  
23 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

24  
25 SECTION 1. Subsection 54.(a) of the Rules of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Fourth General  
26 Assembly, concerning selection of membership positions on standing committees, is amended to read as follows:

27 54.(a) STANDING COMMITTEES

28 (1) Selection of membership positions, including the positions of Chair and Vice-chair, on House  
29 committees for members-elect shall take place during the caucus of the entire House of Representatives-elect  
30 following the November General Election.

31 (2) Each standing committee shall consist of twenty (20) members. Each member of the House of  
32 Representatives shall serve on two (2) standing committees, one (1) of which shall be a Class "A" standing  
33 committee and one (1) of which shall be a Class "B" standing committee. A member may not serve on more than  
34 one (1) committee of the same class. Members of the standing committees shall be selected as follows:

35 (A) Each Class "A" standing committee and each Class "B" standing committee shall  
36 have five (5) members from each of the four (4) House district caucuses.

1 (B)(i) The most senior member of the House of Representatives shall select first and  
2 shall choose a position on a Class “A” standing committee. The next-senior member shall then choose a position on  
3 a Class “A” standing committee. The seniority rotation procedure shall continue until the member with the least  
4 seniority makes his or her selection.

5 (ii) After the member with the least seniority makes his or her Class “A”  
6 standing committee selection, the most senior member shall select his or her Class “B” standing committee. The  
7 seniority rotation shall continue until the member with the least seniority selects his or her Class “B” standing  
8 committee.

9 (iii) During the process for selection of membership positions for standing  
10 committees of the House of Representatives, a member may select the position of Chair or Vice-chair of the  
11 standing committee while those positions remain open.

12 (C)(i) A member may trade a committee membership with another member.

13 (ii) A trade of committee membership may only occur by the close of business  
14 on the day of the committee selection process.

15 (iii) A trade of committee membership shall be in writing and signed by the  
16 members who are trading their committee memberships, the trading members’ political caucus leaders, and the  
17 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

18 (iv) Once completed, written and signed documentation of the trade of  
19 committee membership shall be filed in the House Journal.

20 (D)(i) The Speaker of the House shall have the authority to make adjustments to  
21 committee membership following the committee selection process only for the purpose of adjusting the majority to  
22 minority party ratio on the standing committees.

23 (ii) The adjustments to committee membership made by the Speaker shall not  
24 exceed placing eleven (11) members of the majority party on a twenty (20) member committee.

25 (3) Standing committee membership shall be confirmed at the same time that House members are  
26 administered the oath of office.

27 (4) From within each standing committee there shall be created three (3) permanent  
28 subcommittees consisting of eight (8) members. Each member of the House of Representatives shall serve on two  
29 (2) permanent subcommittees, one (1) from a Class “A” standing committee and one (1) from a Class “B” standing  
30 committee. The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the chairperson of each standing committee shall  
31 jointly appoint from the membership of the standing committee six (6) persons for each permanent subcommittee  
32 available, provided further the chairperson and vice chairperson of each standing committee shall be ex-officio,  
33 voting members of each permanent subcommittee created from within their standing committee. The permanent  
34 subcommittees of the standing committees may meet after having first obtained prior approval of the standing  
35 committee chairperson.

1 (5) There shall be no transfers from one standing committee to another or from one permanent  
2 subcommittee to another during the biennium following initial biennial appointment and or confirmation. After  
3 selection of standing committee members and permanent subcommittee members, a vacancy occurring on a standing  
4 committee or permanent subcommittee during the biennium because of the death, resignation, expulsion, etc., of a  
5 member, shall be temporarily filled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives assigning the newly elected  
6 member, for the remainder of the biennium, to the “A” and “B” standing committees, and the permanent  
7 subcommittees previously held by their predecessor. The newly elected member does not automatically assume a  
8 chairmanship or vice-chairmanship, which vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

9 (6) A non-returning member of the House of Representatives who has been assigned an office or  
10 other premises shall vacate the office or other premises by December 15 following the General Election in the even-  
11 numbered years; and, by the same date, a returning member shall be prepared to vacate his or her assigned office or  
12 premises at the direction of the Speaker.

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14 SECTION 2. Subdivision 54.(b)(1) of the Rules of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Fourth  
15 General Assembly, concerning appointment of members to select committees, is amended to read as follows:

16 (1) With the exception of the House Budget Committee, the Speaker shall appoint all members, ~~and all~~  
17 alternates, chairs, and vice-chairs on all House select committees and all Joint Select Committees. The Speaker shall  
18 appoint ex-officio members in accordance with the law.

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20 SECTION 3. Subdivision 54.(b)(3) of the Rules of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Fourth  
21 General Assembly, concerning membership of the House Budget Committee, is amended to read as follows:

22 (3)(A) The House Budget Committee shall consist of six (6) members of the House of  
23 Representatives and two (2) alternates from each House caucus district. At the time the alternates are selected, one  
24 (1) shall be designated as first alternate and the other as second alternate. The term of office of the members shall be  
25 from January 1 of odd-numbered years through December 31 of the following even-numbered year. Vacancies in  
26 either a member or alternate member position shall be filled in the same manner as the initial member or alternate  
27 member position was filled. House Budget Committee membership shall be confirmed at the same time that House  
28 members are administered the oath of office. Prior to confirmation, however, members chosen to serve on the  
29 House Budget Committee shall conduct pre-session budget hearings, either standing alone or in conjunction with the  
30 Legislative Council.

31 (B) The Chair and Vice-chair of the House Budget Committee shall be selected by the  
32 members of the House Budget Committee. Only a member of the majority party may serve as the Chair of the  
33 House Budget Committee.

1 SECTION 4. Subdivision 54.(c)(1) of the Rules of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Fourth  
 2 General Assembly, concerning appointment of chairs and vice-chairs for committees of the House of  
 3 Representatives, is amended to read as follows:

4 54.(c)(1) ~~The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint a chairperson and a vice~~  
 5 ~~chairperson of each standing committee and each select committee who shall serve at the pleasure of the Speaker of~~  
 6 ~~the House of Representatives.~~ The Speaker, in consultation with the chairperson of each standing committee, shall  
 7 appoint from the membership of each permanent subcommittee, a chairperson and vice chairperson provided  
 8 however that the vice chairperson of the standing committee may be the chairperson of a permanent subcommittee.  
 9 No member of the House of Representatives, with the exception of each House standing committee vice  
 10 chairperson, shall be chairperson or vice chairperson of more than one (1) standing committee, select committee, or  
 11 permanent subcommittee.  
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13 SECTION 5. Subsection 80.(a) of the Rules of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Fourth General  
 14 Assembly, concerning selection of House of Representatives members of the Legislative Council, is amended to  
 15 read as follows:

16 80.(a)(1) The House of Representatives shall select twenty (20) members to serve on the Legislative  
 17 Council, to include five (5) members from each of the four (4) House district caucuses, in the manner set forth in  
 18 Rule 54.(b) of these rules.

19 (2) ~~The Speaker~~ members of the Legislative Council shall select one (1) of their number as  
 20 Legislative Council co-chair and one (1) of their number as Legislative Council co-vice-chair. No more than two (2)  
 21 members selected from each caucus shall reside within the same county. The term of office of the members shall be  
 22 from January 1 of odd-numbered years to December 31 of the following even-numbered year. Legislative Council  
 23 membership shall be confirmed at the same time that House members are administered the oath of office.  
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25 SECTION 6. Subsection 81.(a) of the Rules of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Fourth General  
 26 Assembly, concerning selection of House of Representatives members of the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee,  
 27 is amended to read as follows:

28 81.(a) The House of Representatives shall select twenty (20) members to serve on the Legislative Joint  
 29 Auditing Committee, to include five (5) members from each of the four (4) House District Caucuses, in the manner  
 30 set forth in Rule 54.(b) of these rules. Following the selections, the ~~Speaker of the House of Representatives~~  
 31 members of the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee shall select one (1) of their number as Legislative Joint  
 32 Auditing Committee co-chair and one (1) of their number as Legislative Joint Auditing Committee co-vice-chair. No  
 33 more than two (2) members shall reside within the same county. The term of office of the members shall be from  
 34 January 1 of odd-numbered years to December 31 of the following even-numbered year. Legislative Joint Auditing  
 35 Committee membership shall be confirmed at the same time that House members are administered the oath of  
 36 office.

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SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. The provisions of this resolution shall be effective upon sine die adjournment of the Regular Session of the Ninety-Fourth General Assembly and shall be utilized beginning with the committee selection process for the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Fifth General Assembly.

Referred by Representative Crawford

Prepared by: JET/JET