

1
2 State of Arkansas
3 94th General Assembly
4 Regular Session, 2023

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1801

5
6 By: Representative Ladyman

7 Filed with: House Select Committee on Rules
8 pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

For An Act To Be Entitled

9
10 AN ACT TO REORGANIZE THE STANDING COMMITTEES AND THE
11 SUBJECT MATTER INTERIM COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF
12 REPRESENTATIVES; TO AMEND THE NAMES OF THE STANDING
13 COMMITTEES AND THE SUBJECT MATTER INTERIM COMMITTEES
14 OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES; TO AMEND THE SUBJECT
15 MATTER AREAS ASSIGNED TO THE STANDING COMMITTEES AND
16 THE SUBJECT MATTER INTERIM COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF
17 REPRESENTATIVES; TO AMEND THE NAME AND DUTIES OF THE
18 JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY; TO AMEND THE NAME AND
19 DUTIES OF THE JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE ON ENERGY; AND
20 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

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22
23 TO REORGANIZE THE STANDING COMMITTEES AND
24 THE SUBJECT MATTER INTERIM COMMITTEES OF
25 THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES; TO RENAME
26 THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND THE
27 JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE ON ENERGY.
28

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

32
33 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 10-3-101 is amended to read as follows:
34 10-3-101. Pre-session assignment of regular standing committees.

35 (a) The pre-session assignments of members of regular standing Senate
36 and House of Representatives committees and the designation of committee

1 chair and vice chair shall be made in the Senate pursuant to the Rules of the
2 Senate and in the House of Representatives by the Speaker-elect of the House
3 of Representatives as soon as is feasible after each biennial general
4 election.

5 (b) The following ten (10) standing committees shall be established
6 for the House of Representatives, in accordance with the Rules of the House
7 of Representatives:

8 (1) House Committee on Education – matters pertaining to public
9 kindergarten, elementary, secondary, and adult education, vocational
10 education, vocational-technical schools, vocational rehabilitation, higher
11 education, private educational institutions, similar legislation, and
12 resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on
13 Education;

14 (2) House Committee on Public Safety, Corrections, and Inspector
15 General – matters pertaining to public safety, state and local courts, court
16 clerks and stenographers and other employees of the courts, civil and
17 criminal procedures, probate matters, civil and criminal laws, issues related
18 to the Department of Inspector General, similar matters, and resolutions
19 germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on Public Safety,
20 Corrections, and Inspector General;

21 (3) House Committee on Public Health – matters pertaining to
22 public health, mental health, similar legislation, and resolutions germane to
23 the subject matter of the House Committee on Public Health;

24 (4) House Committee on Commerce, Insurance, Labor and Licensing,
25 and Public Transportation – matters pertaining to banks and banking, savings
26 and loan associations, stocks, bonds, and other securities, securities
27 dealers, insurance, public utilities, partnerships and corporations, home
28 mortgage financing and housing, labor and labor relations, industrial
29 development, roads and highways, city streets, county roads, highway safety,
30 airports and air transportation, common and contract carriers, mass transit,
31 similar legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the
32 House Committee on Commerce, Insurance, Labor and Licensing, and Public
33 Transportation;

34 (5) House Committee on Finance and Administration – matters
35 pertaining to the levy, increase, reduction, collection, enforcement and
36 administration of taxes and other revenue-producing measures, and resolutions

1 germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on Finance and
2 Administration;

3 (6) House Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs – matters
4 pertaining to the military, veterans, similar legislation, and resolutions
5 germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on Veterans and Military
6 Affairs;

7 (7) House Committee on Agriculture – matters pertaining to
8 agriculture, livestock, forestry, similar legislation, and resolutions
9 germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on Agriculture;

10 (8) House Committee on State Agencies, Transformation, and
11 Shared Services – matters pertaining to state government and state agencies,
12 except where the subject matter relates more appropriately to another
13 committee, proposed amendments to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas
14 or the federal government, election laws and procedures, federal and
15 interstate relations, legislative affairs, memorials, other matters whenever
16 the subject matter is not germane to the subject matter of any other standing
17 committee, similar legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter
18 of the House Committee on State Agencies, Transformation, and Shared
19 Services;

20 (9) House Committee on Human Services – matters pertaining to
21 public welfare, human relations and resources, intellectual and other
22 developmental disabilities, the aged and problems of aging, children and
23 youth, similar legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of
24 the House Committee on Human Services; and

25 (10) House Committee on City, County, Local Affairs, Parks,
26 Heritage, Tourism, and Game and Fish – matters pertaining to city and
27 municipal affairs, county affairs, local improvement districts, interlocal
28 government cooperation, parks, heritage, tourism, hunting, fishing, similar
29 legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House
30 Committee on City, County, Local Affairs, Parks, Heritage, Tourism, and Game
31 and Fish.

32
33 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 10-3-203(3)(A), concerning subject matter
34 interim committees of the House of Representatives, is amended to read as
35 follows:

1 (3)(A) The following ten (10) subject matter interim committees of the
2 House of Representatives, each to consist of the members who compose the
3 respective standing committees of the House having comparable subject matter
4 jurisdiction, plus such other nonvoting members as may be selected pursuant
5 to the Rules of the House of Representatives, who shall be entitled to per
6 diem and mileage for attending meetings of the committees:

7 (i) House Committee on Education – matters
8 pertaining to public kindergarten, elementary, secondary, and adult
9 education, vocational education, vocational-technical schools, vocational
10 rehabilitation, higher education, private educational institutions, similar
11 legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House
12 Committee on Education;

13 (ii) House Committee on ~~Judiciary~~ Public Safety,
14 Corrections, and Inspector General – matters pertaining to public safety,
15 state and local courts, court clerks and stenographers and other employees of
16 the courts, civil and criminal procedures, probate matters, civil and
17 criminal laws, issues related to the Department of Inspector General, similar
18 matters, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House Committee
19 on ~~Judiciary~~ Public Safety, Corrections, and Inspector General;

20 (iii) House Committee on ~~Public Health, Welfare, and~~
21 ~~Labor~~ – matters pertaining to public health, mental health, ~~intellectual and~~
22 ~~other developmental disabilities, public welfare, human relations and~~
23 ~~resources, environmental affairs, water and air pollution, labor and labor~~
24 ~~relations,~~ similar legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter
25 of the House Committee on ~~Public Health, Welfare, and Labor~~;

26 (iv) House Committee on Commerce, Insurance, Labor
27 and Licensing, and Public Transportation – matters pertaining to banks and
28 banking, savings and loan associations, stocks, bonds, and other securities,
29 securities dealers, insurance, public utilities, partnerships and
30 corporations, home mortgage financing and housing, labor and labor relations,
31 industrial development, roads and highways, city streets, county roads,
32 highway safety, airports and air transportation, common and contract
33 carriers, mass transit, similar legislation, and resolutions germane to the
34 subject matter of the House Committee on Commerce, Insurance, Labor and
35 Licensing, and Public Transportation;

1 (v) House Committee on ~~Revenue and Taxation~~ Finance
 2 and Administration – matters pertaining to the levy, increase, reduction,
 3 collection, enforcement and administration of taxes and other revenue-
 4 producing measures, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the
 5 House Committee on ~~Revenue and Taxation~~ Finance and Administration;

6 (vi) House Committee on ~~Aging, Children and Youth,~~
 7 Legislative Veterans and Military Affairs – matters pertaining to the aged
 8 ~~and problems of aging; children and youth,~~ military, veterans, legislative
 9 ~~affairs, memorials, other matters whenever the subject matter is not germane~~
 10 ~~to the subject matter of any other standing committee,~~ similar legislation,
 11 and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on
 12 ~~Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative~~ Veterans and Military Affairs;

13 (vii) House Committee on ~~Agriculture, Forestry, and~~
 14 ~~Economic Development~~ – matters pertaining to agriculture, livestock,
 15 forestry, ~~industrial development, natural resources, oil and gas, publicity~~
 16 ~~and parks, levee and drainage, rivers and harbors,~~ similar legislation, and
 17 resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on
 18 ~~Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development~~;

19 ~~(viii) House Committee on City, County, and Local~~
 20 ~~Affairs~~ – matters pertaining to city and municipal affairs, county affairs,
 21 ~~local improvement districts, interlocal government cooperation, similar~~
 22 ~~legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House~~
 23 ~~Committee on City, County, and Local Affairs~~;

24 ~~(ix) House Committee on Insurance and Commerce~~ –
 25 ~~matters pertaining to banks and banking, savings and loan associations,~~
 26 ~~stock, bonds, and other securities, securities dealers, insurance, public~~
 27 ~~utilities, partnerships and corporations, home mortgage financing and~~
 28 ~~housing, similar legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter~~
 29 ~~of the House Committee on Insurance and Commerce~~; and

30 ~~(x)(viii)~~ (viii) House Committee on State Agencies, ~~and~~
 31 ~~Governmental Affairs~~ Transformation, and Shared Services – matters pertaining
 32 to state government and state agencies, except where the subject matter
 33 relates more appropriately to another committee, proposed amendments to the
 34 Constitution of the State of Arkansas or the federal government, election
 35 laws and procedures, federal and interstate relations, legislative affairs,
 36 memorials, other matters whenever the subject matter is not germane to the

1 subject matter of any other standing committee, similar legislation, and
2 resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on State
3 Agencies, ~~and Governmental Affairs.~~ Transformation, and Shared Services;

4 (ix) House Committee on Human Services – matters
5 pertaining to public welfare, human relations and resources, intellectual and
6 other developmental disabilities, the aged and problems of aging, children
7 and youth, similar legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter
8 of the House Committee on Human Services; and

9 (x) House Committee on City, County, Local Affairs,
10 Parks, Heritage, Tourism, and Game and Fish – matters pertaining to city and
11 municipal affairs, county affairs, local improvement districts, interlocal
12 government cooperation, parks, heritage, tourism, hunting, fishing, similar
13 legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House
14 Committee on City, County, Local Affairs, Parks, Heritage, Tourism, and Game
15 and Fish.

16
17 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code §§ 10-3-802 and 10-3-803 are amended to read
18 as follows:

19 10-3-802. Joint Committee on Energy and Environment – Membership –
20 Cochairs.

21 (a) There is created a joint standing committee of the House of
22 Representatives and the Senate to be known as the “Joint Committee on Energy
23 and Environment”.

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

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

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

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

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

4 (2) Senate members and alternate Senate members of the Joint
5 Committee on Energy and Environment shall be appointed at each regular
6 biennial session of the General Assembly and shall serve until the convening
7 of the next regular session of the General Assembly.

8 (c) Members appointed to the Joint Committee on Energy and Environment
9 shall serve on the Joint Committee on Energy and Environment in addition to
10 their service on the regular standing and select committees of the Senate.

11 (d)(1)(A) One (1) of the Senate members of the Joint Committee on
12 Energy and Environment shall be designated pursuant to the Rules of the
13 Senate to serve as the Senate Cochair of the Joint Committee on Energy and
14 Environment.

15 (B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
16 designate two (2) of the House members appointed to the Joint Committee on
17 Energy and Environment to serve as the House Cochair of the Joint Committee
18 on Energy and Environment and the House Co-vice Chair of the Joint Committee
19 on Energy and Environment.

20 (2) The cochairs of the Joint Committee on Energy and
21 Environment shall preside at alternate meetings of the Joint Committee on
22 Energy and Environment unless the cochairs shall agree otherwise.

23
24 10-3-803. Duties of Joint Committee on Energy and Environment.

25 (a) Bills and matters pertaining to energy sources, energy supplies,
26 energy needs, and energy problems, environmental affairs, water and air
27 pollution, natural resources, oil and gas, levees and drainage, rivers and
28 harbors, similar legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter
29 of energy and environment shall be referred to the Joint Committee on Energy
30 and Environment.

31 (b) In addition, the Joint Committee on Energy and Environment shall
32 make continuing studies and shall cooperate with the appropriate agencies of
33 this state, agencies of the United States Government, and the Congress of the
34 United States in the exchange and dissemination of information and in the
35 development of legislation, designed to promote the conservation and

1 efficient utilization of existing energy sources, and in developing new
2 energy sources to meet the needs of this and future generations.

3
4 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code §§ 10-3-820 - 10-3-822 are amended to read as
5 follows:

6 10-3-820. Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment – Members –
7 Duties.

8 (a) The members of the House of Representatives and the Senate
9 appointed at each regular session of the General Assembly to the Joint
10 Committee on Energy and Environment shall constitute a joint interim
11 committee of the General Assembly to function in the interim between the sine
12 die adjournment or extended recess of the regular session or fiscal session
13 of each General Assembly until the convening of the next regular session or
14 fiscal session of the General Assembly or reconvening of the current General
15 Assembly during an extended recess. This joint interim committee shall be
16 known as the “Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment” and shall
17 function in addition to the other interim committees of the General Assembly
18 established by law. In the event a vacancy shall occur on the Joint Interim
19 Committee on Energy and Environment, the vacancy shall be filled in the same
20 manner as provided for the initial appointment.

21 (b) The Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment shall make
22 continuing studies of energy resources and problems and environmental issues
23 and problems, either initiated by the Joint Interim Committee on Energy and
24 Environment or referred to it by either house of the General Assembly for
25 study, in the interim between sessions of the General Assembly. Interim study
26 proposals and resolutions filed with the Legislative Council under ~~the~~
27 ~~provisions of~~ § 10-3-214 for review and referral to the appropriate germane
28 interim committee of the General Assembly, relating to energy or
29 environmental issues, shall be referred to the Joint Interim Committee on
30 Energy and Environment. The Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment
31 shall undertake each study referred to it by members of the General Assembly
32 or by the Legislative Council and shall submit a report of its findings and
33 recommendations in regard to each study request prior to the convening of the
34 next regular session of the General Assembly.

35 (c) In addition, the Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment
36 shall exercise leadership in the interim between legislative sessions and

1 shall attempt to coordinate the various energy and environment activities,
2 studies, and planning activities of the General Assembly which relate to the
3 conservation, development, and use of energy resources as well as issues
4 related to the environment for the various committees of the General
5 Assembly.

6 (d) The Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment shall
7 cooperate with the Governor, the appropriate administrative agencies of this
8 state, legislative and administrative agencies of other states, and with the
9 federal government, including participation in regional and national meetings
10 and seminars of state and federal officials in the exchange of information
11 and data on energy resources, supplies, reserves, and in the conservation,
12 storage, and use of energy, including the disposal of energy waste and by-
13 products.

14
15 10-3-821. Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment – Meetings
16 – Cooperation with other states.

17 (a) The Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment shall meet
18 upon call by either or both of the cochairs of the Joint Interim Committee on
19 Energy and Environment, or at such other times as may be provided in the
20 rules of the Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment, or upon
21 written call by any five (5) of its members.

22 (b) The Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment shall
23 cooperate with the Southwest Regional Energy Council, the Council of State
24 Governments, the Southern Legislative Conference, the Southern States Energy
25 Board, the National Conference of State Legislatures and its committees, and
26 other appropriate conferences or associations of public officials concerned
27 with the problems of energy for the purpose of coordinating the combined
28 energy activities and resources of the legislative departments of the
29 respective states in efforts to assist the Congress of the United States and
30 the federal government in coordinating state and national programs for the
31 conservation, preservation, and use of our energy resources.

32
33 10-3-822. Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment – Expenses
34 – Staff.

35 (a) The per diem and mileage, including reimbursement for expenses for
36 attending out-of-state meetings as provided by law, shall be paid from funds

1 appropriated for per diem, mileage, and expenses of members of the General
2 Assembly for attending interim committee meetings or from other funds
3 provided by law for that purpose.

4 (b) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall furnish such staff
5 assistance as may be requested by the Joint Interim Committee on Energy and
6 Environment. The Arkansas Energy Office, the Department of Energy and
7 Environment, and all other appropriate state agencies shall be available to
8 assist and advise the Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment on
9 energy and environmental matters as may be requested by the Joint Interim
10 Committee on Energy and Environment.

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13 Referred requested by the Arkansas House of Representatives

14 Prepared by: JET/SJA
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