

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **79th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1993**
4 **By: Senator Yates**
5
6

As Engrossed: 3/12/93 3/19/93
A Bill

SENATE BILL 792

7
8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 "AN ACT CREATING THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND TAX POLICY;
10 CREATING THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND TAX POLICY REVIEW;
11 AND DESCRIBING THE DUTIES OF THE STAFF OF THE OFFICE AND
12 THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

13 **Subtitle**

14 "AN ACT RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND TAX
15 POLICY."
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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20 SECTION 1. There is hereby created within the Bureau of Legislative
21 Research the Office of Economic and Tax Policy. The Office of Economic and
22 Tax Policy shall be staffed by such personnel as may be authorized by biennial
23 appropriations of the General Assembly.
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25 SECTION 2. (a) There is hereby created the Joint Committee on Economic
26 and Tax Policy which shall be composed of the Chairman of the Senate Committee
27 on Agriculture, Economic and Industrial Development, the Chairman of the House
28 Committee on Agriculture, Economic and Industrial Development, the Chairman of
29 the Senate Committee on Revenue and Taxation, the Chairman of the House
30 Committee on Revenue and Taxation, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on
31 Education, the Chairman of the House Committee on Education, the Chairman of
32 the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor, the Chairman of the
33 House Committee on Public Health, Welfare and Labor, the Chairman of the
34 Senate Committee on City, County and Local Affairs, the Chairman of the House
35 Committee on City, County and Local Affairs, one member of the Senate
36 appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees, and one member of the House
37 appointed by the Speaker. The members shall be entitled to per diem and

1 mileage at the rates prescribed by law for members of joint interim committees
2 of General Assembly and to be paid from funds appropriated for paying per diem
3 and mileage of joint interim committees.

4 (b) The Committee shall hear matters relating to the economic and
5 revenue outlook of the state, and information relating to the economic and
6 fiscal impact of public policy measures, including the revenue forecasts as
7 submitted by the governor and make such recommendations as it deems necessary.

8 SECTION 3. (a) The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall on or before
9 the first Wednesday in May prior to the beginning of each fiscal year submit
10 to the Joint Committee on Economic and Tax Policy *the official* forecast of
11 general revenues to be available for distributions under the provisions of the
12 Revenue Stabilization Law §19-5-101 et seq., for the fiscal year. The
13 Committee may hold meetings and hearings, and request such information, data
14 or studies as it deems necessary. Upon hearing evidence and information
15 regarding the outlook for state revenues, the members of the Joint Committee
16 on Economic and Tax Policy shall make its findings on the forecast of general
17 revenues available for distribution. A report of the Committee's findings
18 shall be sent to the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

19 (b) In the event the Chief Fiscal Officer of the state determines it
20 has become necessary to change the forecast of general revenues available for
21 distribution, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the state shall report the expected
22 change in forecast to the Office of Economic and Tax Policy and the Committee
23 on Economic and Tax Policy, with an explanation of the need for the change.

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25 SECTION 4. (a) The Office of Economic and Tax Policy shall work under
26 the standards and guidelines of the Economic and Tax Policy Review Committee
27 and shall:

28 (1) review the biennial and annual revenue forecast submitted by the
29 executive branch;

30 (2) provide legislators with such information as may be requested
31 regarding the data and assumptions supporting the forecast;

32 (3) at the request of the Committee, provide alternative forecasts
33 based on different assumptions regarding economic performance;

34 (4) make periodic reviews of the official revenue forecast performance;

35 (5) provide members with analyses of policy proposals which might

1 affect the state's economy or fiscal outlook;

2 (6) biennially prepare and make available to the members of the General
3 Assembly a comprehensive compilation of taxes levied by the state; and,

4 (7) provide committee members or other members of the General Assembly
5 with such data, information, or policy studies as may be requested, subject to
6 time and resource constraints.

7 (b) *The office of Economic and Tax Policy shall prepare fiscal impact*
8 *analyses of proposed legislation on request of any member of the General*
9 *Assembly or legislative committee.*

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11 Section 5. (a) The Department of Finance and Administration shall
12 cooperate with and assist the Office of Economic and Tax Policy in carrying
13 out its responsibilities by providing the Office with such non-confidential
14 tax information as may be requested by the Office and by providing such other
15 assistance to the Office as may be requested.

16 (b) Other state agencies shall cooperate with and assist the Office of
17 Economic and Tax Policy in carrying out its duties.

18 (c) The state supported institutions of higher education shall
19 cooperate with and assist the Office of Economic and Tax Policy in carrying
20 out its duties and shall provide the Committee support and advice in
21 determining the state's economic policy and revenue forecast.

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23 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code §§ 10-3-1401 through 10-3-1404 pertaining to
24 the Office of Tax Research is hereby repealed.

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26 SECTION 7. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
27 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
28 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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30 SECTION 8. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
31 any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
32 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
33 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
34 act are declared to be severable.

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1 SECTION 9. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are
2 hereby repealed.

3 /s/Senator Yates

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