

1 State of Arkansas
2 81st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1997

H.C.R. 1031

4 By: Representatives Capps, Cunningham, Flanagan, and Beatty

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

8 TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
9 81ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNTIL JANUARY 24, 1998; TO PROVIDE
10 THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL RECESS AT THE CLOSE OF
11 BUSINESS ON APRIL 4, 1997, TO RECONVENE FOR LIMITED
12 PURPOSES ON MAY 2, 1997, UNLESS THE SPEAKER AND PRESIDENT
13 PRO TEMPORE DETERMINE THAT A MEETING FOR THE LIMITED
14 PURPOSES ON MAY 2 IS NOT NECESSARY; TO PROVIDE THAT UPON
15 COMPLETION OF THE LIMITED BUSINESS AT THE MAY 2 MEETING OR
16 UPON A FINDING BY THE SPEAKER AND PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
17 THAT SUCH MEETING IS UNNECESSARY, THE 81ST GENERAL
18 ASSEMBLY WILL STAND IN RECESS TO RECONVENE AT ANY TIME
19 BEFORE JANUARY 24, 1998, ON CALL OF THE SPEAKER AND
20 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OR UPON ADDRESS OF A MAJORITY OF THE
21 MEMBERS OF EACH HOUSE, TO CONSIDER SPECIFIED MATTERS.

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Subtitle

24 TO EXTEND THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
25 81ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO JANUARY 24,
26 1998, TO PROVIDE THAT THE 81ST GENERAL
27 ASSEMBLY WILL STAND IN RECESS AT THE
28 CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON APRIL 4, 1997.

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30 WHEREAS, SCR 30 extends the regular session of the Eighty-First General
31 Assembly until 12:00 noon May 2, 1997, provides that the Eighty-First General
32 Assembly shall enter into recess at the close of business on April 4, 1997,
33 provides that the Speaker of the House and President Pro Tempore of the Senate
34 may reconvene the General Assembly to consider executive vetoes, correct
35 errors and oversights at any time before 12:00 noon, May 2, or may adjourn the
36 General Assembly at any time before that date if they determine it is not

1 necessary to reconvene, and further provides that if the General Assembly is
2 not reconvened before 12:00 noon, May 2, 1997, the regular session of the
3 Eighty-First General Assembly is adjourned sine die on that date; and

4 WHEREAS, it is now apparent that the General Assembly cannot by May 2
5 complete the business pending before it including but not limited to the
6 legislation necessary to accommodate and comply with the federal laws which
7 were recently enacted to shift a major portion of the responsibility for
8 administering and funding public assistance programs from the U.S. Government
9 to state governments and legislation relating to the new system of vocational
10 technical schools, the funding of public schools, the implementation and
11 organization of the successors to the Legislative Council and the Bureau of
12 Legislative Research and other matters hereinafter specifically enumerated;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, it appears that considerable input and deliberation by the
15 General Assembly will be necessary to enable the General Assembly to act
16 responsibly in enacting legislation to comply with and accommodate the
17 requirements of the federal laws which shifted responsibility for public
18 assistance programs to the State and relating to the other issues enumerated
19 above; and

20 WHEREAS, various agencies and committees have or will be charged with
21 the responsibility to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of
22 various programs and policies established to improve the respective public
23 assistance programs and to review public school fundings and other issues and
24 the General Assembly must have adequate opportunity to review the findings and
25 recommendations of those agencies and committees; and

26 WHEREAS, it is apparent that the various public assistance programs
27 including the Support Services and Extended Support Services, Transitional
28 Employment Assistance, Medical Assistance, Child Care and Early Childhood
29 Education and others, and the procedures for implementing the programs, will
30 need to be revised after several months of monitoring and evaluating those
31 programs; and

32 WHEREAS, it appears that additional programs may be necessary to
33 accommodate the shift of responsibility for public assistance programs from
34 the federal to state government, and additional legislation may be necessary
35 to assure the efficient and effective operation of these programs, to assure

1 proper funding for public schools, vocational education and other matters
2 enumerated above; and

3 WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas has been unable to make substantial
4 progress in developing skills training in our vocational education system; and

5 WHEREAS, the General Assembly recently enacted legislation creating a
6 new Board of Vocational Education and a new commission to study work force
7 development and directed the commission to report its findings and
8 recommendations by December 1, 1997; and

9 WHEREAS, the new Board of Vocational Education will have recommendations
10 and proposed solutions concerning the many problems of vocational education in
11 the State; and

12 WHEREAS, over the next several months, a study will be made of the
13 Department of Human Services and of the feasibility of reorganizing the
14 Department and the findings and recommendations resulting from that study need
15 to be reviewed and acted upon by the General Assembly prior to the next
16 regular session of the General Assembly; and

17 WHEREAS, the proper implementation of the legislation which provided for
18 reorganization of legislative staff and for the committees established to
19 succeed to the duties of the former Legislative Council cannot be accomplished
20 before the recess on April 4; and

21 WHEREAS, it would appear to be in the best interest of the State that
22 the regular session of the 81st General Assembly be extended until January 24,
23 1998, and that the General Assembly recess until the new welfare programs and
24 procedures can be initiated, monitored and evaluated and the General Assembly
25 can have the benefit of the experience in the operation of the programs as
26 well as the evaluations and recommendations of the agencies and committees
27 administering and monitoring the programs, and of decisions in school funding
28 cases currently pending in various courts, in order that the General Assembly
29 can act responsibly in revising existing programs and in establishing new
30 programs in the area of public assistance and in addressing funding for public
31 schools and to resolve the other issues recited above,

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33 NOW THEREFORE,

34 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-FIRST GENERAL
35 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

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2 SECTION 1. The regular session of the Eighty-First General Assembly is
3 hereby extended until January 24, 1998.

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5 SECTION 2. The Eighty-First General Assembly shall recess at the close
6 of business on April 4, 1997.

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8 SECTION 3. The Eighty-First General Assembly shall reconvene at 12:00
9 noon on May 2, 1997, for the following purposes:

10 (a) To review and take appropriate action on bills or parts of bills
11 disapproved by the Governor;

12 (b) To correct errors going to the validity of bills passed prior to
13 the recess;

14 (c) To take appropriate action on fiscal matters including but not
15 limited to appropriation bills, revenue bills, revenue classification and
16 revenue allocation.

17 Provided, if the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of
18 the Senate by joint proclamation declare that none of the matters enumerated
19 above require the attention of the General Assembly, the General Assembly
20 shall not convene on May 2, 1997.

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22 SECTION 4. If the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of
23 the Senate determine that none of the matters enumerated in Section 3 need
24 attention of the General Assembly on May 2, or if the General Assembly
25 convenes on May 2, then upon completion of the business enumerated in Section
26 3, the General Assembly shall stand in recess, to reconvene at any time before
27 January 24, 1998, on call of the Speaker and President Pro Tem or upon address
28 of a majority of the members of each house for the following purposes:

29 (a) To receive and review reports from the various agencies, committees
30 and other bodies charged with the responsibility to initiate, administer,
31 monitor and evaluate the new and revised public assistance programs and
32 procedures and the laws establishing such programs and procedures, concerning
33 the success of the programs and procedures and concerning any recommended
34 changes in existing programs and procedures and any recommendations relating
35 to the establishment of new programs or procedures to assure that the States

1 welfare reform program is achieving the goals intended.

2 (b) To develop and enact such laws as the General Assembly deems
3 appropriate in the area of welfare reform, whether necessary to accommodate
4 federal laws designed to shift responsibility for public assistance programs
5 to the states, or necessary or desirable to assure that the States welfare
6 reform programs will accomplish the purposes and achieve the goals intended,
7 including but not limited to consideration of House Bill 1730.

8 (c) To review the findings and recommendations resulting from the study
9 of the Department of Human Services and the reorganization of the Department
10 and to consider and enact legislation to carry out all or a part of those
11 findings and recommendations, including but not limited to consideration of
12 House Bill 2193.

13 (d) To enact legislation to address funding for the public schools,
14 including but not limited to consideration of House Bills 2058 and 2284.

15 (e) To consider and enact appropriate legislation relating to
16 vocational education, work force development, school to work funding, and
17 other necessary and desirable legislation concerning vocational education,
18 including but not limited to Senate Bill 432 and Senate Bill 623 which are
19 currently pending before the Eighty-First General Assembly.

20 (f) To enact legislation and take other appropriate steps to implement
21 any changes previously made in legislative committee organization and
22 legislative staffing.

23 (g) To take appropriate action on fiscal matters including but not
24 limited to appropriation bills, revenue bills, revenue classification and
25 revenue allocation.

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