

1 State of Arkansas
2 81st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1997
4 By: Senator Wilson

S.C.R. 24

5
6
7 **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

8 REQUESTING THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE AND
9 COMMERCE AND THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE AND
10 COMMERCE TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE IMPACT OF COMPETITION
11 IN THE ELECTRIC UTILITY INDUSTRY ON THE CITIZENS OF
12 ARKANSAS, THE ELECTRIC UTILITY INDUSTRY AND THE REGULATORY
13 AUTHORITY OF THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

14
15 **Subtitle**

16 REQUESTING THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
17 INTERIM COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE AND
18 COMMERCE TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE
19 IMPACT OF COMPETITION IN THE ELECTRIC
20 UTILITY INDUSTRY ON THE CITIZENS OF
21 ARKANSAS, THE ELECTRIC UTILITY INDUSTRY
22 AND THE REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF THE
23 ARKANSAS PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

24
25
26 WHEREAS, many state legislators and regulatory authorities are assessing
27 whether a competitive retail generation market and the choice of generation
28 suppliers to consumers can achieve economic benefits beyond the current
29 regulated structure; and

30 WHEREAS, certain legislation is pending in the Congress of the United
31 States that would, inter alia, require states to allow retail competition in
32 the electric utility industry at some time in the future; and

33 WHEREAS, the citizens of Arkansas are entitled to continue to enjoy the
34 high level of reliability and universally available service that currently is
35 delivered by the regulated electric industry; and

36 WHEREAS, any changes in the electric utility industry structure should

1 provide benefits to all current utility customers and not simply shift costs
2 from one class of customers to another class of customers or to utility
3 stockholders; and

4 WHEREAS, a transition to a competitive retail generation market must be
5 made in an orderly fashion to ensure that service reliability and economic
6 efficiency for customers is maintained; and

7 WHEREAS, any changes in the current electric industry structure must
8 respect past regulatory commitments to all stakeholders; and

9 WHEREAS, the transition to any competitive electric market will require
10 time and resources to achieve benefits for all stakeholders; and

11 WHEREAS, any new competitive electric market must be fair to all
12 suppliers and not hinder one supplier with obligations not shared by its
13 competitors; and

14 WHEREAS, Entergy Arkansas, Inc. has filed an application with the
15 Arkansas Public Service Commission requesting approval of certain rate
16 proposals in Docket No. 96-360-U designed to facilitate a transition to
17 competition; and

18 WHEREAS, other state regulators are considering similar proposals by
19 individual utilities in their states; and

20 WHEREAS, it is not the intent of the General Assembly in adopting this
21 resolution to cause a delay in the consideration and disposition by the APSC
22 of the proposals contained in APSC Docket No. 96-360-U.

23

24 NOW THEREFORE,

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

27

28 THAT the Senate Interim Committee on Insurance and Commerce and the
29 House Interim Committee on Insurance and Commerce conduct a study, to begin on
30 or after the Arkansas Public Service Commissions final order in Docket No.
31 96-360-U or by December 1, 1997, whichever comes first, with the cooperation
32 of all agencies in the executive branch, to determine what statutory actions
33 may be necessary and advisable to allow the citizens of Arkansas to have
34 access to a competitive system of electric service; and the appropriate
35 timetable for a transition to such a system.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Interim Committees report their findings
to the legislature at its next regular session.

1