

State of Arkansas
90th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2015

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1258

By: Representatives Pitsch, Baltz, D. Douglas, Hickerson, Jean, Sturch, Wardlaw
By: Senator Files

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO RE-ESTABLISH THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON
INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION AND COMMERCE; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO RE-ESTABLISH THE LEGISLATIVE TASK
FORCE ON INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION AND
COMMERCE.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative Task Force on Intermodal
Transportation and Commerce.

(a) The Legislative Task Force on Intermodal Transportation and
Commerce is re-established.

(b) The task force shall consist of the following members who shall be
appointed by July 1, 2015:

(1) One (1) member of the Senate to be appointed as co-chair of
the task force by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(2) One (1) member of the House of Representatives to be
appointed as co-chair of the task force by the Speaker of the House of
Representatives;

(3) Two (2) current or past members of the House Committee on
Public Transportation to be appointed by the Chair of the House Committee on
Public Transportation;

(4) Two (2) current or past members of the Senate Committee on



Public Transportation, Technology, and Legislative Affairs to be appointed by the Chair of the Senate Committee on Public Transportation, Technology, and Legislative Affairs;

(5) Two (2) members of the Arkansas-Oklahoma Port Operators Association, one (1) to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and one (1) by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(6) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Waterways Commission or his or her designee;

(7) The Director of Highways and Transportation of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department or his or her designee;

(8) The Commissioner of State Lands or his or her designee;

(9) A representative of the Arkansas Trucking Association to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(10) A representative of the railroad industry to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(11) Two (2) representatives of a local regional intermodal transportation authority to be appointed by the Commissioner of State Lands;

(12) The Director of the Arkansas Department of Aeronautics or his or her designee; and

(13) One (1) representative from a metropolitan planning organization in the state to be appointed by the Director of Highways and Transportation of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department.

(14) One (1) representative from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission to be appointed by the Executive Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission.

(c) A vacancy on the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the initial appointment.

(d) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall provide staff support for the task force.

(e) The task force shall:

(1) Explore the creation of a new Arkansas Department of Transportation which will have combined responsibility for highways, waterways and ports, rail, and aeronautics;

(2) Explore the following specific recommendations relating to intermodal transportation and commerce for review, consideration, and implementation by the General Assembly:

(A) Identify the relevant constitutional and legislative constraints involved in the creation of a new Arkansas Department of Transportation with regard to the constitutionally created State Highway Commission and the existing legislatively created Arkansas Waterways Commission and Arkansas Department of Aeronautics, and the possibility of modal divisions;

(B) Identify funding sources for a new Arkansas Department of Transportation to promote and develop a coordinated multimodal transportation system;

(C) Develop a plan for a seamless and cost-effective transition into the newly structured Arkansas Department of Transportation;

(D) Determine the division or agency responsible for intermodal development and oversight;

(E) Establish a coordinating council for regional intermodal transportation authorities in order to provide guidance, oversight, and coordination and promote multimodal collaboration; and

(F) Explore options to leverage existing modal assets for development of economic opportunities; and

(3) Report its findings and recommendations no later than December 1, 2016, to the House Committee on Public Transportation and the Senate Committee on Public Transportation, Technology, and Legislative Affairs.

(f) Legislative members of the task force shall be paid per diem and mileage in the manner authorized by law for attendance at meetings of interim committees of the General Assembly.

(g) Regular meetings will be held monthly through the term of the existence of the task force.

(h) The task force shall expire the day after reporting its findings and recommendations under subdivision (e)(3) of this section.

APPROVED: 02/23/2015