

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
90th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2015

A Bill

SENATE BILL 61

By: Senator B. Sample

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE
ON HIGHWAY FINANCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS BLUE RIBBON
COMMITTEE ON HIGHWAY FINANCE.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance created.

(a) There is created a legislative committee to be known as the "Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance", to be composed of the following members:

(1) Ten (10) members shall be residents of the state who are knowledgeable in transportation, logistics, finance, business, industry, civil engineering, or economic development;

(2) One (1) member shall be an elected county official who is a member of the Association of Arkansas Counties and appointed by the Executive Director of the Association of Arkansas Counties;

(3) One (1) member shall be an elected city official who is a member of the Arkansas Municipal League and appointed by the Executive Director of the Arkansas Municipal League;

(4) One (1) member shall be a member of the State Highway Commission;

(5) One (1) member shall be the Chair of the House Committee on Revenue and Taxation;



(6) One (1) member shall be the Chair of the Senate Committee on Revenue and Taxation;

(7) Two (2) members shall be the co-chairs of the Joint Budget Committee;

(8) One (1) member shall be the Chair of the Senate Committee on Public Transportation, Technology, and Legislative Affairs; and

(9) One (1) member shall be the Chair of the House Committee on Public Transportation.

(b)(1) The Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chair of the House Committee on Public Transportation, and the Chair of the Senate Committee on Public Transportation, Technology, and Legislative Affairs shall each appoint two (2) of the ten (10) members as required under subdivision (a)(1) of this section.

(2) The Governor shall appoint the members as required under subdivisions (a)(2) and (3) of this section.

(3) The Chair of the State Highway Commission shall appoint the member as required under subdivision (a)(4) of this section.

(4) The appointments under this section shall be made within six (6) weeks after the effective date of this act.

(c) If a vacancy occurs on the Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance, the vacancy shall be filled by the same process as the original appointment.

(d) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Public Transportation, Technology, and Legislative Affairs shall call the first meeting and serve as Chair of the Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance until the time, during the first meeting, the members of the Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance shall elect from among themselves a chair.

(e)(1) In carrying out its functions, the Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance may create advisory task forces as it deems necessary.

(2) The memberships of advisory task forces created under subdivision (e)(1) of this section may include both members of the Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance and other persons drawn from sources other than the Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance, all of whom shall serve at the pleasure of the respective task force.

SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Purpose.

The Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance shall:

(1) Seek to actively involve the public as full and valued partners in determining adequate financing of the present and future needs of the state highways, county roads, and city streets within the state;

(2) Define an equitable and adequate system to properly finance improvements to the systems of state highways, county roads, and city streets within the state; and

(3) Propose and recommend legislation for the 2017 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. Donations, grants, and legislative appropriations.

The research, activities, and other mandates performed by the Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance under the this act may be funded by donations, grants, or legislative appropriations.

SECTION 4. DO NOT CODIFY. Report.

The Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance shall submit a report and its recommendations for any proposed legislation to the following on or before July 1, 2016:

(1) The Governor;

(2) The House Committee on Public Transportation;

(3) The Senate Committee on Public Transportation, Technology, and Legislative Affairs;

(4) The House Committee on Revenue and Taxation;

(5) The Senate Committee on Revenue and Taxation;

(6) The Legislative Council;

(7) The State Highway Commission;

(8) The Association of Arkansas Counties; and

(9) The Arkansas Municipal League.

SECTION 5. DO NOT CODIFY. Staff support.

(a) The Bureau of Legislative Research, with assistance from the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, shall provide staff

support for the Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance.

(b) A state agency that receives a written request from the Chair of the Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance shall assist the bureau with its duties under this section.

SECTION 6. DO NOT CODIFY. Per diem and mileage reimbursement.

(a) Legislative members of the Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance shall be entitled to per diem and mileage at the same rate authorized by law for attendance at meetings of interim committees of the General Assembly and shall be paid from the same source.

(b) Nonlegislative members of the Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance shall be entitled to per diem and mileage at the same rate authorized by law for attendance by members of the General Assembly at meetings of interim committees of the General Assembly, provided that funds are available.

SECTION 7. DO NOT CODIFY. Expiration.

The Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance expires on January 1, 2017.

SECTION 8. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that recent information indicates that the state has severe and pressing needs regarding the state's system of state highways, county roads, and city streets; and that this act is immediately necessary because a thorough review of the state's highway system must be undertaken immediately to fully address needs relevant to the state's system of state highways, county roads, and city streets. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.