

By: Representative K. Hendren

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY; TO AMEND THE RULES REGARDING SELECTION OF MEMBERS FOR HOUSE COMMITTEES.

### Subtitle

TO AMEND THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Rule 54 of the Rules of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-First General Assembly of the State of Arkansas is amended to read as follows:

#### 54.(a) STANDING COMMITTEES

54.(a)(1) Each standing committee shall consist of twenty (20) members. Each member of the House of Representatives shall serve on two (2) standing committees, one (1) of which shall be a Class "A" committee and one (1) of which shall be a Class "B" committee. Members of the standing committees shall be selected ~~by House District Caucuses of members elect on the Friday following the November General Election with each caucus selecting five (5) members for each "A" standing committee and five (5) members for each "B" standing committee. The members elect of the Second District Caucus shall select up to three (3) members for each standing committee from within~~



the Pulaski County membership and the remaining members for each standing committee from without the Pulaski County membership; this provision may be waived by majority vote of the members elect from without Pulaski County as follows:

(A) The makeup of the standing committees shall reflect the majority to minority ratio present in the House of Representatives at the time of committee selection, e.g. if the ratio in the House of Representatives is seventy-five percent (75%) majority party to twenty-five percent (25%) minority party, the standing committees shall have the same ratio of majority to minority. As such, the standing committees shall be composed of at least eleven (11) members of the majority party, and the minority party shall have no more than nine (9) members on any standing committee.

(B) The most senior member of the House of Representatives shall select first and shall choose either a Class "A" standing committee or a Class "B" standing committee. The next senior member shall then choose a position on either a Class "A" standing committee or a Class "B" standing committee. The seniority rotation procedure shall continue until the member with the least seniority makes his or her selection. After the member with the least seniority makes his or her selection, the most senior member shall select his or her second Class "A" standing committee or Class "B" standing committee. The seniority rotation shall continue until the member with the least seniority selects his or her second Class "A" standing committee or Class "B" standing committee.

54.(a)(2) No member may serve on committees of the same class.

54.(a)(3) Members-elect on each standing committee shall select one (1) of their number to serve as Chairperson of the standing committee and one (1) of their number to serve as Vice-Chairperson of the standing committee. Only a member of the majority party may serve as the Chairperson of a Class "A" or Class "B" standing committee.

54.(a)(4) Standing committee membership shall be confirmed at the same time that representatives are administered the oath of office.

54.(a)(2) (a)(5) Each member of the House who is serving a first or second term in the House shall be entitled to serve as a non-voting member of one of the ten (10) joint interim committees designated as "A" and "B" committees. The non-voting members of each of the ten (10) joint interim

committees shall be selected ~~by the four (4) House caucuses~~ in the same manner as provided for voting members at a time designated by the Speaker of the House sometime before the adjournment of each regular session. ~~Each caucus shall select not to exceed three (3) first or second term members to serve as non-voting members of each of the ten (10) joint interim committees designated as "A" and "B" committees.~~ The non-voting members shall be entitled to attend meetings of the committees, to serve on subcommittees of the committee, to participate in the deliberations of the committee or subcommittee, and to receive per diem and mileage for attending meetings of the committee or subcommittee, but shall not have a vote in the committee or a subcommittee.

54.~~(a)(3)~~ (a)(6) Members of the House of Representatives who are committee chairpersons or vice-chairpersons or select seniority members who have been assigned an office or other premises shall vacate the office or other premises by December 15 following the General Election in the even-numbered years.

54.~~(a)(4)~~ (a)(7) ~~Each standing committee shall consist of twenty (20) members. Each member of the House shall serve on two (2) standing committees, one (1) of which shall be a Class "A" committee and one (1) of which shall be a Class "B" committee.~~ From within each standing committee there shall be created three (3) permanent subcommittees consisting of eight (8) members. Each member of the House shall serve on two (2) permanent subcommittees, one (1) from a Class "A" standing committee and one (1) from a Class "B" standing committee. The Speaker and the chairperson of each standing committee shall jointly appoint from the membership of the standing committee six (6) persons for each permanent subcommittee available, provided further the chairperson and vice chairperson of each standing committee shall be ex-officio, voting members of each permanent subcommittee created from within their standing committee. The permanent subcommittees of the standing committees may meet after having first obtained prior approval of the standing committee chairperson.

54.~~(a)(5)~~ (a)(8) ~~A signed report from the chairperson of a caucus district will represent final movement to a standing committee. A signed report from the chairperson of a standing committee will represent final movement to a permanent subcommittee.~~ There shall be no transfers from one standing committee to another or from one permanent subcommittee to another

during the biennium following initial biennial appointment and or confirmation. After selection of standing committee members and permanent subcommittee members, a vacancy occurring on a standing committee or permanent subcommittee during the biennium because of the death, resignation, impeachment, etc., of a member, shall be temporarily filled by the Speaker of the House assigning the newly elected member, for the remainder of the biennium, to the "A" and "B" standing committees, and the permanent subcommittees previously held by their predecessor. At the end of the biennium, the temporary positions held on the "A" and "B" committees and the permanent subcommittees will be declared vacant and will be available for choosing in accordance with House rules. The newly elected member does not automatically assume a chairmanship or vice-chairmanship, which vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

54.(b) SELECT COMMITTEES

54.(b)(1) ~~The Speaker shall appoint all members and all alternates on all House select committees and all Joint Select Committees except the Joint or House Budget Committee.~~ Members of the Joint Select Committees, Select Committees, and Special Committees shall be selected as follows:

(A) The most senior member of the House of Representatives shall select first and shall choose a position on one (1) of the joint select, select, or special committees. The next senior member shall then choose a position on a joint select, select, or special committee. The seniority rotation procedure shall continue until the member with the least seniority makes his or her selection or until all spots on the joint select, select, or special committees are filled.

(B) Alternate positions for the joint select, select, or special committees shall be selected in the same manner as for regular members, with those not serving as primary members on a joint select, select, or special committee, going from most senior to least senior to choose a select committee on which to serve as an alternate.

(C) The Speaker shall appoint ex-officio members in accordance with the law.

54.(b)(2) Members-elect on each joint select, select, or special committee shall select one (1) of their number to serve as Chairperson of the select committee and one (1) of their number to serve as Vice-Chairperson of the committee. Any member of the House of Representatives may serve as the

Chairperson of a joint select, select, or special committee regardless of party affiliation.

54.(b)(3) The House Budget Committee shall consist of ~~six (6)~~ twenty-four (24) members of the House of Representatives and ~~two (2)~~ eight (8) alternates, ~~chosen from each caucus district on the first Friday following the November General Election before each regular biennial session in accordance with Arkansas Code § 10-3-502.~~ At the time the alternates are selected, one (1) shall be designated as first alternate and the other as second alternate. ~~The selections shall be made by caucus of the House members-elect residing within each caucus district.~~ Members-elect chosen for membership on the House Budget Committee shall select one (1) of their number to serve as chairperson-elect and one (1) to serve as vice chairperson-elect. The term of office of the members shall be from January 1 of odd-numbered years through December 31 of the following even-numbered year. Vacancies in either a member or alternate member position shall be filled in the same manner as the initial member or alternate member position was filled. House Budget Committee membership shall be confirmed at the same time that representatives are administered the oath of office. Prior to confirmation, however, members-elect chosen to serve on the House Budget Committee shall conduct pre-session budget hearings, either standing alone or in conjunction with the Legislative Council.

54.(b)(3) No member of the House of Representatives shall serve on more than one (1) select committee. The Legislative Council, the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee, the House Budget Committee, the House Committee on the Journal; Engrossed and Enrolled Bills, and the House Management Committee are excluded therefrom.

54.(c)(1) ~~The Speaker of the House shall appoint a chairperson and a vice chairperson of each standing committee and each select committee who shall serve at the pleasure of the Speaker.~~ The Speaker, in consultation with the chairperson of each standing committee, shall appoint from the membership of each permanent subcommittee, a chairperson and vice chairperson, provided however that the vice chairperson of the standing committee may be the chairperson of a permanent subcommittee. No member of the House, ~~with the exception of each House standing committee vice chairperson,~~ shall be chairperson or vice chairperson of more than one (1) standing committee, select committee, or permanent subcommittee.

54.(c)(2) The rules or proceedings of the House of Representatives shall be observed in all select committees, standing committees, and subcommittees of the House so far as they may be applicable.

54.(c)(3) The House Committee on the Journal; Engrossed and Enrolled Bills shall serve as the supervisory committee over the preparation of the Journal and engrossing and enrolling of bills.

54.(c)(4) After the membership of a standing committee or a permanent subcommittee is established, no member shall be removed from any standing committee or any permanent subcommittee during the biennium for which ~~he/she~~ he or she was selected. All appointees selected by the Speaker serve at ~~his/her~~ his or her discretion.

SECTION 2. Rule 80 of the Rules of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-First General Assembly is amended to read as follows:

80. Legislative Council.

80.(a)(1) ~~Twenty (20) of the House members of the Legislative Council shall be selected by members elect of the House Caucus Districts. Each caucus shall select five (5) members. Each~~ The House shall select twenty (20) members to serve on the Legislative Council in the manner set forth in Rule 54.(b) of these rules.

80.(a)(2) The selections shall occur on the Friday following the November General Election. Following the selections, the newly selected House of Representative members of the Legislative Council shall select one (1) of their number as Legislative Council co-chair and one (1) of their number as Legislative Council co-vice-chair. ~~However no more than one (1) member selected by caucus shall reside within the same county.~~ The term of office of the members shall be from January 1 of odd-numbered years to December 31 of the following even-numbered year. Legislative Council membership shall be confirmed at the same time that representatives are administered the oath of office.

80.(b) In order that there may be no House vacancies on the Legislative Council at any time, at the time of selection of the House members to the Legislative Council, there shall be selected in ~~each Caucus District~~ the manner set forth in Rule 54.(b) of these rules, a first alternate and a second alternate for each member ~~selected from that district.~~

In the event that any House member or House alternate of the Legislative Council resigns from the Legislative Council, is disqualified from serving on the Legislative Council, dies, or for any other reason there becomes a permanent vacancy in a House position on the Legislative Council, ~~the Speaker of the House members of the Caucus District from which the member or alternate was selected~~ shall choose a replacement member or alternate to serve the remainder of the term. When a vacancy occurs in a House member position on the Legislative Council or a House alternate position on the Legislative Council, that person's alternate shall serve until a ~~signed report from the Caucus chairperson designating otherwise is filed with the Speaker~~ new member is chosen. The Speaker shall notify the Legislative Council chairperson of all changes in membership on the Legislative Council.

80.(c) Ex-officio members shall be selected in accordance with A.C.A. 10-3-301.

SECTION 3. Rule 81 of the Rules of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-First General Assembly is amended to read as follows:

81. Legislative Joint Auditing Committee.

81.(a) House members of the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee shall be selected ~~by members elect of each House Caucus District~~ in the manner set forth in Rule 54.(b) of these rules. The selections shall occur on the Friday following the November General Election. Following the selections, the newly selected House of Representative members of the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee shall select one (1) of their number as Legislative Joint Auditing Committee co-chair and one (1) of their number as Legislative Joint Auditing Committee co-vice-chair. ~~Each caucus shall select five (5) members. However no more than two (2) members shall reside within the same county.~~ The term of office of the members shall be from January 1 of odd-numbered years to December 31 of the following even-numbered year. Legislative Joint Auditing Committee membership shall be confirmed at the same time that representatives are administered the oath of office.

81.(b) In order that there may be no House vacancies on the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee at any time, at the time of selection of the House members to the Committee there shall be selected in ~~each Caucus District~~ the manner set forth in Rule 54.(b) of these rules a first alternate

and a second alternate for each member selected ~~from that District~~. In the event that any House member or House alternate of the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee resigns from the Committee, is disqualified from serving on the Committee, dies, or for any other reason there becomes a permanent vacancy in a House position on the Committee, the Speaker of the House ~~membership of the Caucus District from which the member or alternate was selected~~ shall choose a replacement member or alternate to serve the remainder of the term. When a vacancy occurs in a House member position on the Committee or a House alternate position on the Committee, that person's alternate shall serve until a ~~signed report from the Caucus chairperson designating otherwise is filed with the Speaker~~ new member is chosen. The Speaker shall notify the Committee chairperson of all changes in membership on the Committee.

81.(c) Ex-officio members shall be selected in accordance with ~~A.C.A. 10-3-403 thru 10-3-404~~ Arkansas Code §§ 10-3-403 and 10-3-404.