

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. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall select from each of the four (4) House District Caucuses five (5) members for each "A" standing committee and five (5) members for each "B" standing committee Members of the standing committees shall be selected as follows:

(A) The makeup of the standing committees shall reflect the majority party to minority party ratio present in the House of Representatives at the time of the 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; and

(B)(i) The most senior member of the House of Representatives shall select first and shall choose a position on 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.

(ii) During the selection process, a member may select the position of chairperson or vice-chairperson on a standing committee if a chairperson or vice-chairperson position on either a Class "A" standing committee or Class "B" standing committee remains open at the time of his or her selection.

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

54.(a)(3) 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)(5) Each member of the House of Representatives who is serving a first or second term in the House of Representatives shall be entitled to serve as a non-voting member 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 in the same manner as provided for voting members at a time designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives sometime before the adjournment of each regular session. 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)(2)(a)(6) 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 of Representatives 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 of the House of Representatives 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)(3)(a)(7) There shall be no transfers from one (1) standing committee to another or from one (1) 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 of Representatives 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" standing committees and the permanent subcommittees will be declared vacant and will be available for choosing in accordance with the Rules of the House of Representatives. 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.(a)(4)(a)(8) Members of the House of Representatives 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.(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.~~ Members of the Joint Select Committees, Select Committees, Legislative Council, and Legislative Joint Auditing Committee 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, Legislative Council, or Legislative Joint Auditing committees. The next senior member shall then choose a position on a joint select, select, or Legislative Council, or Legislative Joint Auditing committees. 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, Legislative Council, or Legislative Joint Auditing committees are filled;

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

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

54.(b)(2) The House Budget Committee shall consist of ~~six (6)~~ twenty-four (24) members of the House of Representatives and ~~two (2)~~ eight (8) alternates ~~selected by the Speaker from each caucus district, 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. Members chosen for membership on the House Budget Committee shall select one (1) of their number to serve as chairperson and one (1) to serve as vice chairperson. 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 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 of~~ Representatives, 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 of Representatives 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 or she was selected. All ~~select committee~~ appointees selected by the Speaker of the House of Representatives serve at his or her discretion.

SECTION 2. Rule 80 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:

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL; LEGISLATIVE JOINT AUDITING COMMITTEE

80. Legislative Council.

80.(a)(1) ~~The Speaker shall select from each of the four (4) House District Caucuses five (5) members to serve on the Legislative Council. The House of Representatives shall select twenty (20) members to serve on the Legislative Council in the manner set forth in Rule 54.(b) of these rules. The selections shall occur on the Friday following the November General Election.~~

80.(a)(2) ~~The Speaker~~ Following the selections, the newly selected House of Representatives 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. No more than two (2) members selected from each 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 of Representatives members to the Legislative Council, there shall be selected ~~from each Caucus District in the same manner as is 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 of Representatives member or House of Representatives 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 of Representatives position on the Legislative Council, the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall select ~~from the same caucus district~~ a replacement member or alternate to serve the remainder of the term. When a vacancy occurs in a House of Representatives member position on the Legislative Council or a House of Representatives alternate position on the Legislative Council, that person's alternate shall serve until ~~the Speaker selects a replacement~~ a new member is chosen. The Speaker of the House of Representatives 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.~~ Arkansas Code § 10-3-301.

SECTION 3. Rule 81 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:

81. Legislative Joint Auditing Committee.

81.(a) ~~The Speaker shall select from each of the four (4) House District Caucuses five (5) members to serve on the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee. The Speaker~~ The House of Representatives shall select twenty (20) members to serve on the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee 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 Representatives 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. 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 of Representatives members to the Committee there shall be selected, ~~from each Caucus District~~ in the same manner as is 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 of Representatives member or House of Representatives 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 of Representatives shall select ~~from the same caucus district~~ a replacement member or alternate to serve the remainder of the term. When a vacancy occurs in a House of Representatives member position on the Committee or a House of Representatives alternate position on the Committee, that person's alternate shall serve until ~~the Speaker selects a replacement~~ a new member is chosen. The Speaker of the House of Representatives 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 10-26-3-404~~ Arkansas Code §§ 10-3-403 and 10-3-404.