

By: Representative Gates

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 OF 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(a) 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) 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.~~

~~54.(a)(2) 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 as follows:~~

~~(A) The makeup of the standing committees shall reflect as close as possible 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 party to minority party. As such, unless evenly split, 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) Members-elect of each of the two (2) major political parties, Republican and Democrat, shall caucus on the Friday following the General Election to determine the members-elect from the caucus that will serve on each standing committee.

(C) A member-elect elected as a representative of a non-major political party may determine which political party he or she wishes to caucus with for the purpose of committee selection.

(D) Prior to the caucus meetings, the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall notify each caucus of the number of positions the caucus will have to fill on the standing committees, keeping as close as possible to the percentages of party representation within the House of Representatives.

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

54.(a)(2) 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) 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 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. 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) 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.

SECTION 2. Rule 54(b)(2) of the Rules of House of Representatives of the Ninety-First General Assembly of the State of Arkansas is amended to read as follows:

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 political party caucus district as follows:

(A) The makeup of the House Budget Committee shall reflect as close as possible the majority party to minority party ratio present in the House of Representatives at the time of the House Budget 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 House Budget Committee shall have the same ratio of majority party to minority party. As such, unless evenly split, the House Budget Committee shall be composed of at least thirteen (13) members of the majority party, and the minority party shall have no more than eleven (11) members on the committee.

(B) At the time that the members-elect of each of the two major political parties caucus to determine the members-elect from the caucus that will serve on each standing committee, the caucuses shall also select the members that will serve on the House Budget Committee as members and first and second alternates.

(C) A member-elect elected as a representative of a non-major

political party may determine which political party he or she wishes to caucus with for the purpose of committee selection.

(D) Prior to the caucus meetings, the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall notify each caucus of the number of positions the caucus will have to fill on the committee, keeping as close as possible to the percentages of party representation within the House of Representatives. At the time the alternates are selected, one (1) shall be designated as first alternate and the other as second alternate.

(E) 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.

SECTION 3. 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:

80. Legislative Council.

80.(a) 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 following manner:

(1) The makeup of the non-ex officio House members selected to serve on the Legislative Council shall reflect as close as possible 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 non-ex officio House members of the Legislative Council shall have the same ratio of majority party to minority party. As such, unless evenly split, the non ex officio House membership of the Legislative Council 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 the committee.

(2) At the time that the members-elect of each of the two major political parties caucus to determine the members-elect from the caucus that will serve on each standing committee, the caucuses shall also select the

members that will serve on the Legislative Council as members and first and second alternates.

(3) A member-elect elected as a representative of a non-major political party may determine which political party he or she wishes to caucus with for the purpose of committee selection.

(4) Prior to the caucus meetings, the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall notify each caucus of the number of positions the caucus will have to fill on the committee, keeping as close as possible to the percentages of party representation within the House of Representatives.

(5) The Speaker of the House of Representatives 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.~~

(6) 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.

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 Council there shall be selected from each Caucus District 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 of Representatives shall select from the same political party caucus district 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 the Speaker of the House of Representatives selects a replacement. 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 4. 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 House of Representatives shall select twenty (20) members to serve on the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee in the following manner:~~

(1) The makeup of the House members selected to serve on the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee shall reflect as close as possible 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 non-ex officio House members of the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee shall have the same ratio of majority party to minority party. As such, unless evenly split, the non ex officio House membership of the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee 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 the committee.

(2) At the time that the members-elect of each of the two major political parties caucus to determine the members-elect from the caucus that will serve on each standing committee, the caucuses shall also select the members that will serve on the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee as members and first and second alternates.

(3) A member-elect elected as a representative of a non-major political party may determine which political party he or she wishes to caucus with for the purpose of committee selection.

(4) Prior to the caucus meetings, the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall notify each caucus of the number of positions the caucus will have to fill on the committee, keeping as close as possible to the percentages of party representation within the House of Representatives.

(5) The Speaker of the House of Representatives 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.

(6) No more than two (2) members shall reside within the same county.

(7) 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.

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 from each Caucus District 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 Legislative Joint Auditing Committee, is disqualified from serving on the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee, dies, or for any other reason there becomes a permanent vacancy in a House position on the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee, the Speaker shall select from the same political party caucus ~~district~~ a replacement member or alternate to serve the remainder of the term. When a vacancy occurs in a House member position on the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee or a House alternate position on the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee, that person's alternate shall serve until the Speaker selects a replacement. The Speaker shall notify the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee chairperson of all changes in membership on the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee.

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

/s/Gates