

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

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: S3/20/17

A Bill

SENATE BILL 627

By: Senator J. Hutchinson

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING MEETINGS OF THE CLAIMS REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND MEETINGS OF OTHER SUBCOMMITTEES AND COMMITTEES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT ARE HELD TO CONSIDER APPEALS OF DECISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

CONCERNING MEETINGS TO CONSIDER APPEALS OF DECISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS STATE CLAIMS COMMISSION, INCLUDING MEETINGS OF THE CLAIMS REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 10, Chapter 3, Subchapter 3, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

10-3-318. Meetings to consider appeals of decisions of Arkansas State Claims Commission – Findings.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 13, provides that the sessions of each house of the General Assembly and of committees of the whole shall be open, unless when the business is such as ought to be kept secret;

(2) Despite the authority granted by Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 13, the General Assembly as a whole and committees of the General Assembly strive to conduct their business in an open and transparent



manner;

(3) Certain subject matter, information, and deliberations pertaining to appeals of decisions of the Arkansas State Claims Commission may involve information confidential under Arkansas law or otherwise sensitive to public disclosure;

(4) When serving in a quasi-judicial role while hearing appeals of decisions of the commission, the committees and subcommittees of the General Assembly require the discretion to conduct their examinations and deliberations pertaining to certain appeals in a private and confidential manner similar to other appellate entities; and

(5) To avoid confusion, certain committees and subcommittees of the General Assembly should be given specific authority to hold closed meetings when necessary to conduct their business when hearing an appeal of a decision of the commission.

(b) When meeting to consider the appeal of a decision of the commission, the following committees or subcommittees of the General Assembly may conduct all or part of the meeting as a closed meeting as deemed necessary by the chairs of the committees or subcommittees:

(1) The Claims Review Subcommittee of the Legislative Council;

(2) The Claims Subcommittee of the Joint Budget Committee;

(3) The Legislative Council; and

(4) The Joint Budget Committee.

(c) A committee or subcommittee meeting to consider the appeal of a decision of the commission shall not make a motion or vote upon a motion during a portion of a meeting conducted as a closed meeting.

(d) This section does not limit the power of the General Assembly and the committees and subcommittees of the General Assembly regarding their meetings, including without limitation powers granted under:

(1) Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 13; and

(2) Other relevant provisions of the Arkansas Constitution.

/s/J. Hutchinson