

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

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1801

By: Representative Ladyman

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REORGANIZE THE STANDING COMMITTEES AND THE SUBJECT MATTER INTERIM COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES; TO AMEND THE NAMES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES AND THE SUBJECT MATTER INTERIM COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES; TO AMEND THE SUBJECT MATTER AREAS ASSIGNED TO THE STANDING COMMITTEES AND THE SUBJECT MATTER INTERIM COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES; TO AMEND THE NAME AND DUTIES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY; TO AMEND THE NAME AND DUTIES OF THE JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE ON ENERGY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REORGANIZE THE STANDING COMMITTEES AND THE SUBJECT MATTER INTERIM COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES; TO RENAME THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND THE JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE ON ENERGY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 10-3-101 is amended to read as follows:
10-3-101. Presession assignment of regular standing committees.

(a) The presession assignments of members of regular standing Senate and House of Representatives committees and the designation of committee chair and vice chair shall be made in the Senate pursuant to the Rules of the Senate and in the House of Representatives by the Speaker-elect of the House



of Representatives as soon as is feasible after each biennial general election.

(b) The following ten (10) standing committees shall be established for the House of Representatives, in accordance with the Rules of the House of Representatives:

(1) House Committee on Education – matters pertaining to public kindergarten, elementary, secondary, and adult education, vocational education, vocational-technical schools, vocational rehabilitation, higher education, private educational institutions, similar legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on Education;

(2) House Committee on Public Safety, Corrections, and Inspector General – matters pertaining to public safety, state and local courts, court clerks and stenographers and other employees of the courts, civil and criminal procedures, probate matters, civil and criminal laws, issues related to the Department of Inspector General, similar matters, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on Public Safety, Corrections, and Inspector General;

(3) House Committee on Public Health – matters pertaining to public health, mental health, similar legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on Public Health;

(4) House Committee on Commerce, Insurance, Labor and Licensing, and Public Transportation – matters pertaining to banks and banking, savings and loan associations, stocks, bonds, and other securities, securities dealers, insurance, public utilities, partnerships and corporations, home mortgage financing and housing, labor and labor relations, industrial development, roads and highways, city streets, county roads, highway safety, airports and air transportation, common and contract carriers, mass transit, similar legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on Commerce, Insurance, Labor and Licensing, and Public Transportation;

(5) House Committee on Finance and Administration – matters pertaining to the levy, increase, reduction, collection, enforcement and administration of taxes and other revenue-producing measures, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on Finance and Administration;

(6) House Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs – matters pertaining to the military, veterans, similar legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs;

(7) House Committee on Agriculture – matters pertaining to agriculture, livestock, forestry, similar legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on Agriculture;

(8) House Committee on State Agencies, Transformation, and Shared Services – matters pertaining to state government and state agencies, except where the subject matter relates more appropriately to another committee, proposed amendments to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas or the federal government, election laws and procedures, federal and interstate relations, legislative affairs, memorials, other matters whenever the subject matter is not germane to the subject matter of any other standing committee, similar legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on State Agencies, Transformation, and Shared Services;

(9) House Committee on Human Services – matters pertaining to public welfare, human relations and resources, intellectual and other developmental disabilities, the aged and problems of aging, children and youth, similar legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on Human Services; and

(10) House Committee on City, County, Local Affairs, Parks, Heritage, Tourism, and Game and Fish – matters pertaining to city and municipal affairs, county affairs, local improvement districts, interlocal government cooperation, parks, heritage, tourism, hunting, fishing, similar legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on City, County, Local Affairs, Parks, Heritage, Tourism, and Game and Fish.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 10-3-203(3)(A), concerning subject matter interim committees of the House of Representatives, is amended to read as follows:

(3)(A) The following ten (10) subject matter interim committees of the House of Representatives, each to consist of the members who compose the respective standing committees of the House having comparable subject matter

jurisdiction, plus such other nonvoting members as may be selected pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives, who shall be entitled to per diem and mileage for attending meetings of the committees:

(i) House Committee on Education – matters pertaining to public kindergarten, elementary, secondary, and adult education, vocational education, vocational-technical schools, vocational rehabilitation, higher education, private educational institutions, similar legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on Education;

(ii) House Committee on Judiciary Public Safety, Corrections, and Inspector General – matters pertaining to public safety, state and local courts, court clerks and stenographers and other employees of the courts, civil and criminal procedures, probate matters, civil and criminal laws, issues related to the Department of Inspector General, similar matters, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on Judiciary Public Safety, Corrections, and Inspector General;

(iii) House Committee on ~~Public Health, Welfare, and Labor~~ – matters pertaining to public health, mental health, ~~intellectual and other developmental disabilities, public welfare, human relations and resources, environmental affairs, water and air pollution, labor and labor relations~~, similar legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on ~~Public Health, Welfare, and Labor~~;

(iv) House Committee on Commerce, Insurance, Labor and Licensing, and Public Transportation – matters pertaining to banks and banking, savings and loan associations, stocks, bonds, and other securities, securities dealers, insurance, public utilities, partnerships and corporations, home mortgage financing and housing, labor and labor relations, industrial development, roads and highways, city streets, county roads, highway safety, airports and air transportation, common and contract carriers, mass transit, similar legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on Commerce, Insurance, Labor and Licensing, and Public Transportation;

(v) House Committee on ~~Revenue and Taxation~~ Finance and Administration – matters pertaining to the levy, increase, reduction, collection, enforcement and administration of taxes and other revenue-producing measures, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the

House Committee on ~~Revenue and Taxation~~ Finance and Administration;

(vi) House Committee on ~~Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative Veterans~~ and Military Affairs – matters pertaining to the ~~aged and problems of aging, children and youth, military, veterans, legislative affairs, memorials, other matters whenever the subject matter is not germane to the subject matter of any other standing committee, similar legislation,~~ and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on ~~Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative Veterans~~ and Military Affairs;

(vii) House Committee on ~~Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development~~ – matters pertaining to agriculture, livestock, forestry, ~~industrial development, natural resources, oil and gas, publicity and parks, levee and drainage, rivers and harbors,~~ similar legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on ~~Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development~~;

~~(viii) House Committee on City, County, and Local Affairs~~ – matters pertaining to city and municipal affairs, county affairs, local improvement districts, interlocal government cooperation, similar legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on ~~City, County, and Local Affairs~~;

~~(ix) House Committee on Insurance and Commerce~~ – matters pertaining to banks and banking, savings and loan associations, stock, bonds, and other securities, securities dealers, insurance, public utilities, partnerships and corporations, home mortgage financing and housing, similar legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on ~~Insurance and Commerce~~; and

~~(x)(viii)~~ House Committee on State Agencies, ~~and Governmental Affairs~~ Transformation, and Shared Services – matters pertaining to state government and state agencies, except where the subject matter relates more appropriately to another committee, proposed amendments to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas or the federal government, election laws and procedures, federal and interstate relations, legislative affairs, memorials, other matters whenever the subject matter is not germane to the subject matter of any other standing committee, similar legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on State Agencies, ~~and Governmental Affairs~~, Transformation, and Shared Services;

(ix) House Committee on Human Services – matters

pertaining to public welfare, human relations and resources, intellectual and other developmental disabilities, the aged and problems of aging, children and youth, similar legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on Human Services; and

(x) House Committee on City, County, Local Affairs, Parks, Heritage, Tourism, and Game and Fish – matters pertaining to city and municipal affairs, county affairs, local improvement districts, interlocal government cooperation, parks, heritage, tourism, hunting, fishing, similar legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of the House Committee on City, County, Local Affairs, Parks, Heritage, Tourism, and Game and Fish.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code §§ 10-3-802 and 10-3-803 are amended to read as follows:

10-3-802. Joint Committee on Energy and Environment – Membership – Cochairs.

(a) There is created a joint standing committee of the House of Representatives and the Senate to be known as the “Joint Committee on Energy and Environment”.

(b)(1) The Joint Committee on Energy and Environment shall be a select committee of the House of Representatives and Senate whose members shall be chosen as follows:

(A)(i) Ten (10) members of the Senate to be named pursuant to the Rules of the Senate.

(ii) Each Senate member is authorized to appoint a member of the Senate to serve as his or her alternate on the Joint Committee on Energy and Environment; and

(B)(i) Fifteen (15) members of the House of Representatives to be selected as prescribed by the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(ii) One (1) alternate member for each of the fifteen (15) House members shall be selected as prescribed by the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(2) Senate members and alternate Senate members of the Joint Committee on Energy and Environment shall be appointed at each regular biennial session of the General Assembly and shall serve until the convening

of the next regular session of the General Assembly.

(c) Members appointed to the Joint Committee on Energy and Environment shall serve on the Joint Committee on Energy and Environment in addition to their service on the regular standing and select committees of the Senate.

(d)(1)(A) One (1) of the Senate members of the Joint Committee on Energy and Environment shall be designated pursuant to the Rules of the Senate to serve as the Senate Cochair of the Joint Committee on Energy and Environment.

(B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate two (2) of the House members appointed to the Joint Committee on Energy and Environment to serve as the House Cochair of the Joint Committee on Energy and Environment and the House Co-vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Energy and Environment.

(2) The cochairs of the Joint Committee on Energy and Environment shall preside at alternate meetings of the Joint Committee on Energy and Environment unless the cochairs shall agree otherwise.

10-3-803. Duties of Joint Committee on Energy and Environment.

(a) Bills and matters pertaining to energy sources, energy supplies, energy needs, and energy problems, environmental affairs, water and air pollution, natural resources, oil and gas, levees and drainage, rivers and harbors, similar legislation, and resolutions germane to the subject matter of energy and environment shall be referred to the Joint Committee on Energy and Environment.

(b) In addition, the Joint Committee on Energy and Environment shall make continuing studies and shall cooperate with the appropriate agencies of this state, agencies of the United States Government, and the Congress of the United States in the exchange and dissemination of information and in the development of legislation, designed to promote the conservation and efficient utilization of existing energy sources, and in developing new energy sources to meet the needs of this and future generations.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code §§ 10-3-820 - 10-3-822 are amended to read as follows:

10-3-820. Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment – Members – Duties.

(a) The members of the House of Representatives and the Senate appointed at each regular session of the General Assembly to the Joint Committee on Energy and Environment shall constitute a joint interim committee of the General Assembly to function in the interim between the sine die adjournment or extended recess of the regular session or fiscal session of each General Assembly until the convening of the next regular session or fiscal session of the General Assembly or reconvening of the current General Assembly during an extended recess. This joint interim committee shall be known as the "Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment" and shall function in addition to the other interim committees of the General Assembly established by law. In the event a vacancy shall occur on the Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment, the vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as provided for the initial appointment.

(b) The Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment shall make continuing studies of energy resources and problems and environmental issues and problems, either initiated by the Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment or referred to it by either house of the General Assembly for study, in the interim between sessions of the General Assembly. Interim study proposals and resolutions filed with the Legislative Council under ~~the provisions of~~ § 10-3-214 for review and referral to the appropriate germane interim committee of the General Assembly, relating to energy or environmental issues, shall be referred to the Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment. The Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment shall undertake each study referred to it by members of the General Assembly or by the Legislative Council and shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations in regard to each study request prior to the convening of the next regular session of the General Assembly.

(c) In addition, the Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment shall exercise leadership in the interim between legislative sessions and shall attempt to coordinate the various energy and environment activities, studies, and planning activities of the General Assembly which relate to the conservation, development, and use of energy resources as well as issues related to the environment for the various committees of the General Assembly.

(d) The Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment shall cooperate with the Governor, the appropriate administrative agencies of this

state, legislative and administrative agencies of other states, and with the federal government, including participation in regional and national meetings and seminars of state and federal officials in the exchange of information and data on energy resources, supplies, reserves, and in the conservation, storage, and use of energy, including the disposal of energy waste and by-products.

10-3-821. Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment – Meetings – Cooperation with other states.

(a) The Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment shall meet upon call by either or both of the cochairs of the Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment, or at such other times as may be provided in the rules of the Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment, or upon written call by any five (5) of its members.

(b) The Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment shall cooperate with the Southwest Regional Energy Council, the Council of State Governments, the Southern Legislative Conference, the Southern States Energy Board, the National Conference of State Legislatures and its committees, and other appropriate conferences or associations of public officials concerned with the problems of energy for the purpose of coordinating the combined energy activities and resources of the legislative departments of the respective states in efforts to assist the Congress of the United States and the federal government in coordinating state and national programs for the conservation, preservation, and use of our energy resources.

10-3-822. Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment – Expenses – Staff.

(a) The per diem and mileage, including reimbursement for expenses for attending out-of-state meetings as provided by law, shall be paid from funds appropriated for per diem, mileage, and expenses of members of the General Assembly for attending interim committee meetings or from other funds provided by law for that purpose.

(b) The Bureau of Legislative Research shall furnish such staff assistance as may be requested by the Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment. The Arkansas Energy Office, the Department of Energy and Environment, and all other appropriate state agencies shall be available to

assist and advise the Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment on energy and environmental matters as may be requested by the Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment.