

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2023  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1801

5 By: Representative Ladyman  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO REORGANIZE THE STANDING COMMITTEES AND THE  
9 SUBJECT MATTER INTERIM COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF  
10 REPRESENTATIVES; TO AMEND THE NAMES OF THE STANDING  
11 COMMITTEES AND THE SUBJECT MATTER INTERIM COMMITTEES  
12 OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES; TO AMEND THE SUBJECT  
13 MATTER AREAS ASSIGNED TO THE STANDING COMMITTEES AND  
14 THE SUBJECT MATTER INTERIM COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF  
15 REPRESENTATIVES; TO AMEND THE NAME AND DUTIES OF THE  
16 JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY; TO AMEND THE NAME AND  
17 DUTIES OF THE JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE ON ENERGY; AND  
18 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

21 TO REORGANIZE THE STANDING COMMITTEES AND  
22 THE SUBJECT MATTER INTERIM COMMITTEES OF  
23 THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES; TO RENAME  
24 THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND THE  
25 JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE ON ENERGY.  
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29 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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31 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 10-3-101 is amended to read as follows:  
32 10-3-101. Pre-session assignment of regular standing committees.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 (ix) House Committee on Human Services – matters

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

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

12  
 13 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code §§ 10-3-802 and 10-3-803 are amended to read  
 14 as follows:

15 10-3-802. Joint Committee on Energy and Environment – Membership –  
 16 Cochairs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 of the next regular session of the General Assembly.

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

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

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

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

17  
18 10-3-803. Duties of Joint Committee on Energy and Environment.

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

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

32  
33 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code §§ 10-3-820 - 10-3-822 are amended to read as  
34 follows:

35 10-3-820. Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment – Members –  
36 Duties.

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

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

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

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



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

7  
8 10-3-821. Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment – Meetings  
9 – Cooperation with other states.

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

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

25  
26 10-3-822. Joint Interim Committee on Energy and Environment – Expenses  
27 – Staff.

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

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

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

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