

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 61

5 By: Senator B. Sample
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE
9 ON HIGHWAY FINANCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
10

Subtitle

11 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS BLUE RIBBON
12 COMMITTEE ON HIGHWAY FINANCE.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway
20 Finance created.

21 (a) There is created a legislative committee to be known as the
22 "Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance", to be composed of the
23 following members:

24 (1) Ten (10) members shall be residents of the state who are
25 knowledgeable in transportation, logistics, finance, business, industry,
26 civil engineering, or economic development;

27 (2) One (1) member shall be an elected county official who is a
28 member of the Association of Arkansas Counties and appointed by the Executive
29 Director of the Association of Arkansas Counties;

30 (3) One (1) member shall be an elected city official who is a
31 member of the Arkansas Municipal League and appointed by the Executive
32 Director of the Arkansas Municipal League;

33 (4) One (1) member shall be a member of the State Highway
34 Commission;

35 (5) One (1) member shall be the Chair of the House Committee on
36 Revenue and Taxation;



1 (6) One (1) member shall be the Chair of the Senate Committee on
2 Revenue and Taxation;

3 (7) Two (2) members shall be the co-chairs of the Joint Budget
4 Committee;

5 (8) One (1) member shall be the Chair of the Senate Committee on
6 Public Transportation, Technology, and Legislative Affairs; and

7 (9) One (1) member shall be the Chair of the House Committee on
8 Public Transportation.

9 (b)(1) The Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the
10 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chair of the House Committee on
11 Public Transportation, and the Chair of the Senate Committee on Public
12 Transportation, Technology, and Legislative Affairs shall each appoint two
13 (2) of the ten (10) members as required under subdivision (a)(1) of this
14 section.

15 (2) The Governor shall appoint the members as required under
16 subdivisions (a)(2) and (3) of this section.

17 (3) The Chair of the State Highway Commission shall appoint the
18 member as required under subdivision (a)(4) of this section.

19 (4) The appointments under this section shall be made within six
20 (6) weeks after the effective date of this act.

21 (c) If a vacancy occurs on the Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on
22 Highway Finance, the vacancy shall be filled by the same process as the
23 original appointment.

24 (d) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Public Transportation,
25 Technology, and Legislative Affairs shall call the first meeting and serve as
26 Chair of the Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance until the
27 time, during the first meeting, the members of the Arkansas Blue Ribbon
28 Committee on Highway Finance shall elect from among themselves a chair.

29 (e)(1) In carrying out its functions, the Arkansas Blue Ribbon
30 Committee on Highway Finance may create advisory task forces as it deems
31 necessary.

32 (2) The memberships of advisory task forces created under
33 subdivision (e)(1) of this section may include both members of the Arkansas
34 Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance and other persons drawn from sources
35 other than the Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance, all of whom
36 shall serve at the pleasure of the respective task force.

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2 SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Purpose.

3 The Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance shall:

4 (1) Seek to actively involve the public as full and valued
5 partners in determining adequate financing of the present and future needs of
6 the state highways, county roads, and city streets within the state;

7 (2) Define an equitable and adequate system to properly finance
8 improvements to the systems of state highways, county roads, and city streets
9 within the state; and

10 (3) Propose and recommend legislation for the 2017 Regular
11 Session of the General Assembly.

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13 SECTION 3. DO NOT CODIFY. Donations, grants, and legislative
14 appropriations.

15 The research, activities, and other mandates performed by the Arkansas
16 Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance under the this act may be funded by
17 donations, grants, or legislative appropriations.

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19 SECTION 4. DO NOT CODIFY. Report.

20 The Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance shall submit a
21 report and its recommendations for any proposed legislation to the following
22 on or before July 1, 2016:

23 (1) The Governor;

24 (2) The House Committee on Public Transportation;

25 (3) The Senate Committee on Public Transportation, Technology,
26 and Legislative Affairs;

27 (4) The House Committee on Revenue and Taxation;

28 (5) The Senate Committee on Revenue and Taxation;

29 (6) The Legislative Council;

30 (7) The State Highway Commission;

31 (8) The Association of Arkansas Counties; and

32 (9) The Arkansas Municipal League.

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34 SECTION 5. DO NOT CODIFY. Staff support.

35 (a) The Bureau of Legislative Research, with assistance from the
36 Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, shall provide staff

1 support for the Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance.

2 (b) A state agency that receives a written request from the Chair of
3 the Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance shall assist the bureau
4 with its duties under this section.

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6 SECTION 6. DO NOT CODIFY. Per diem and mileage reimbursement.

7 (a) Legislative members of the Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on
8 Highway Finance shall be entitled to per diem and mileage at the same rate
9 authorized by law for attendance at meetings of interim committees of the
10 General Assembly and shall be paid from the same source.

11 (b) Nonlegislative members of the Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on
12 Highway Finance shall be entitled to per diem and mileage at the same rate
13 authorized by law for attendance by members of the General Assembly at
14 meetings of interim committees of the General Assembly, provided that funds
15 are available.

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17 SECTION 7. DO NOT CODIFY. Expiration.

18 The Arkansas Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance expires on
19 January 1, 2017.

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21 SECTION 8. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
22 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that recent information indicates
23 that the state has severe and pressing needs regarding the state's system of
24 state highways, county roads, and city streets; and that this act is
25 immediately necessary because a thorough review of the state's highway system
26 must be undertaken immediately to fully address needs relevant to the state's
27 system of state highways, county roads, and city streets. Therefore, an
28 emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for
29 the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become
30 effective on:

31 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

32 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
33 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
34 bill; or

35 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
36 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.