

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 88th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2011

HCR 1003

4
5 By: Representatives Moore, Pierce

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7 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

8 ENCOURAGING THE USE OF THE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEES OF
9 THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF
10 REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE TO STUDY SPECIFIC
11 PROBLEMS IN LIEU OF CREATING TASK FORCES FOR THAT
12 PURPOSE.

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15 **Subtitle**

16 ENCOURAGING THE USE OF THE PERMANENT
17 SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES
18 OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE
19 SENATE TO STUDY SPECIFIC PROBLEMS IN LIEU
20 OF CREATING TASK FORCES FOR THAT PURPOSE.

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23 WHEREAS, in 1997 the House of Representatives amended the House rules
24 to provide for permanent subcommittees of the House Standing Committees; and

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26 WHEREAS, this action was consistent with the 1972 study commissioned by
27 the General Assembly and carried out by the Eagleton Institute of Politics at
28 Rutgers University, which noted that "[t]he only way to begin to equalize the
29 power in any such confrontation (between the legislative and executive
30 branches) is to have strong committees with members who specialize in
31 informing themselves about certain agencies, and who review the performance
32 of those agencies during the session and the interim"; and

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34 WHEREAS, the Eagleton study further discouraged the creation of
35 additional, specifically created interim committees to study specific
36 problems and suggested the use of subcommittees of the standing committees



1 for those purposes; and

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3 WHEREAS, recent legislative sessions have seen a proliferation of task
4 forces to study specific problems; and

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6 WHEREAS, in most instances the permanent subcommittees of the standing
7 committees are well suited to perform the tasks assigned to the newly created
8 task forces; and

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10 WHEREAS, the use of task forces in lieu of the permanent subcommittees
11 of the standing committees weakens the legislative branch and creates
12 additional problems, such as staffing needs for the problem-specific task
13 forces,

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15 NOW THEREFORE,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 88TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
17 THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

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19 THAT the House of Representatives and the Senate of the 88th General
20 Assembly discourage the creation and use of task forces to study specific
21 problems facing the State of Arkansas.

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in lieu of task forces, the House of
24 Representatives and the Senate of the 88th General Assembly encourage the use
25 of the permanent subcommittees of the standing committees of the House of
26 Representatives and the Senate to examine specific issues that require
27 further study.