

HOUSE BILL 2694

By Doggett

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3,
relative to the Tennessee State Sovereignty Act of
2024.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, is amended by adding the following
as a new chapter:

3-19-101. This chapter is known and may be cited as the "Tennessee State Sovereignty
Act of 2024."

3-19-102.

(a) There is created the state sovereignty committee, hereinafter the
"committee," consisting of ten (10) members to be appointed as follows:

(1) The speaker of the senate and the speaker of the house of
representatives, who serve as co-chairs of the committee;

(2) Four (4) members from the senate to be appointed by the speaker of
the senate, one (1) of whom is a member of the minority party; and

(3) Four (4) members from the house of representatives to be appointed
by the speaker of the house of representatives, one (1) of whom is a member of
the minority party.

(b) The speakers shall appoint members based on knowledge of and experience
with the Constitution of the United States and the Tennessee Constitution.

(c) The committee is authorized to receive input, advice, and assistance from
interested and affected persons and parties who are not members of the general
assembly.

(d) Seven (7) members of the committee constitute a quorum for the purposes of conducting business and the committee may take action by a majority vote of the membership of the committee.

(e) If a vacancy on the committee occurs, the vacancy must be filled in the same manner as the initial appointment.

(f) The staff of the general assembly shall provide administrative support to the committee, and the committee is attached to the general assembly for budgeting purposes.

(g) All reimbursement for travel expenses must be in accordance with the comprehensive travel regulations as promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter. All members of the committee serve as such without compensation, but the members are entitled to necessary traveling and other appropriate expenses while engaged in the work of or for the committee.

(h) The committee shall meet:

(1) Biannually, no later than July 1 and December 31 of each year, or by call of the chairs;

(2) Upon petition of the people, which must contain one hundred (100) signatures each from residents of not less than twenty (20) counties;

(3) Upon the request of the general assembly, which requires signatures from either fifteen (15) representatives or three (3) senators;

(4) Pursuant to an executive order of the governor; and

(5) Upon special request of the attorney general and reporter.

(i) The committee shall monitor and review federal acts, laws, orders, and regulations that may impact the jurisdiction, governance, sovereignty, or civil liberties of the residents of this state.

(j) The committee shall determine if a federal act, law, order, or regulation violates Article 1, § 2 of the Constitution of Tennessee, or is of the nature of an arbitrary power or oppression. During this evaluation, the committee shall strongly consider whether such violation puts at risk the life, liberty, or property of the residents of this state. If so determined:

(1) The committee shall issue a resolution of noncompliance or a declaration of resistance to such act, law, order, or regulation consistent with Article 1, § 2 of the Constitution of Tennessee, which condemns the doctrine of nonresistance. Such action by the committee fulfills its duty of interposition between the residents of this state and constitutional violations; and

(2) It is the duty of both the residents of this state and the general assembly to resist pursuant to Article 1, § 2 of the Constitution of Tennessee.

3-19-103.

Upon making a positive determination under § 3-19-102(j), the committee:

(1) Shall submit its findings to the general assembly in writing within fifteen (15) days of a special session or before December 1 for the next legislative session;

(2) Shall submit a resolution of its findings for ratification by vote to the general assembly. The committee shall present the resolution as either a single house or joint resolution, as determined by the committee, to the appropriate speaker and request the general assembly to vote on the resolution according to

the rules of each house while in session. The committee shall circulate such resolution to other states of the union;

(3) May request the general assembly to convene a special session in accordance with Article II, § 8 of the Constitution of Tennessee; and

(4) Shall submit a bill for further appropriate legislative action if the committee concludes that life, liberty, or the property of residents of this state are at risk. Such legislation may include noncompliance measures that prohibit the resources of this state from being utilized against residents of this state.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.