

REFERENCE TITLE: Liz Harris; expulsion

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2023

HR 2003

Introduced by
Representative HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A RESOLUTION

EXPELLING REPRESENTATIVE LIZ HARRIS FROM THE ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Whereas, on February 23, 2023, at the request and organization of
2 Representative Liz Harris, the House and Senate Special Joint Elections
3 Committee held a Special Joint Hearing ("Joint Hearing") relating to
4 election integrity, which consisted of presentations by various
5 individuals. At this Joint Hearing, Jacqueline Breger, a member of the
6 public, purported to present "findings" of an investigation that alleged
7 the existence of numerous schemes within Arizona, including money
8 laundering, drug trafficking and sales, public corruption, bribing of
9 public officials and election fraud; and

10 Whereas, Ms. Breger presented information and distributed materials
11 at the Joint Hearing that she claimed showed this alleged criminal
12 activity to have been overseen by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day
13 Saints and committed by various private citizens, government employees,
14 and appointed and elected officials, including current Arizona
15 legislators; and

16 Whereas, on March 6, 2023, Representative Stephanie Stahl Hamilton
17 filed a complaint against Representative Liz Harris in connection with the
18 Joint Hearing and in particular Ms. Breger's presentation. The complaint
19 alleged that Representative Harris personally invited Ms. Breger to
20 present at the Joint Hearing and, in so doing, not only brought "disrepute
21 and embarrassment to the House of Representatives" but also "allowed the
22 impugning of other members" in violation of House Rule 1. The complaint
23 requested that the House of Representatives Committee on Ethics ("Ethics
24 Committee") investigate Representative Harris's actions; and

25 Whereas, the Ethics Committee formally convened on March 23, 2023,
26 and on March 30, 2023, the Ethics Committee held an evidentiary hearing at
27 which various relevant exhibits and Representative Harris's testimony were
28 considered; and

29 Whereas, on April 11, 2023, the Ethics Committee issued its report,
30 which unanimously concluded that Representative Harris committed
31 disorderly behavior, thereby violating Rule 1 of the Rules of the Arizona
32 House of Representatives and damaging the institutional integrity of the
33 House; and

34 Whereas, specifically, the Ethics Committee found that Ms. Breger
35 made criminal allegations during the Joint Hearing, which was an
36 inappropriate venue for such serious claims; and

37 Whereas, the Ethics Committee also found that Representative Harris
38 knew or was aware that Ms. Breger would present these criminal allegations
39 at the Joint Hearing; and

40 Whereas, the Ethics Committee also found that Representative Harris
41 failed to comply with internal House of Representatives deadlines
42 requiring disclosure of presentation materials in advance of the Joint
43 Hearing; and

1 Whereas, the Ethics Committee also found that Representative Harris
2 was not surprised or upset by the information revealed in Ms. Breger's
3 presentation; and

4 Whereas, the Ethics Committee found that, as the primary organizer
5 of the Joint Hearing and the Acting Vice Chair during Ms. Breger's
6 presentation, Representative Harris violated the inherent obligation to
7 protect the integrity of the House of Representatives and used her elected
8 position to provide Ms. Breger with a legislative platform as a substitute
9 for a criminal court; and

10 Whereas, the members of the Ethics Committee unanimously found the
11 fact-intensive evidence to show that Representative Harris engaged in
12 disorderly behavior in violation of House Rule 1, thereby eroding the
13 public trust in the legislative process, and that it was appropriate for
14 the House of Representatives as a whole to determine what, if any,
15 disciplinary measures should be taken; and

16 Whereas, on April 12, 2023, the members of the full House of
17 Representatives adopted the Report of the Ethics Committee as the findings
18 of the House of Representatives.

19 Therefore

20 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona:

21 1. That the Members of the House of Representatives find that
22 Representative Liz Harris violated House of Representatives Rule 1 and
23 engaged in disorderly behavior.

24 2. That Representative Liz Harris's conduct relating to the
25 February 23, 2023 Joint Hearing of the House and Senate Special Joint
26 Elections Committee undermined the public's confidence in this institution
27 and violated the order and decorum necessary to complete the people's work
28 in the State of Arizona.

29 3. That in the exercise of the power granted to the House of
30 Representatives by Article IV, part 2, section 11, Constitution of
31 Arizona, the House of Representatives, with the concurrence of two-thirds
32 of its members, hereby condemns the actions of Representative Liz Harris
33 and expels her from the Arizona House of Representatives.

34 4. That the seat of the member of the House of Representatives,
35 legislative district 13, occupied by Liz Harris, is now vacant.