

Act 143 of the First Special Session of 1989.

Act 143

SB143

By: Senate Efficiency Committee

For An Act To Be Entitled
"AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE MONEY TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE ARKANSAS SENATE OF THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, TO PAY EXPENSES OF MEMBERS THEREOF, TO PAY SALARIES TO THE EMPLOYEES THEREOF, TO PAY FOR AND/OR PURCHASE SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE ARKANSAS SENATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. There is hereby appropriated, to be payable from the Constitutional Officers Fund, to the Arkansas Senate, for the purpose of defraying the necessary expenses of the Seventy-Seventh General Assembly and for paying the expenses of the members thereof as provided herein, as follows:

(1) Mileage allowances, Per Diem, Contingent Expense, Maintenance and Operations, and other expenses authorized by law	\$ 530,000
(2) Salaries of Employees	340,000
(3) Employer Matching Funds	<u>18,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	\$ 888,000

SECTION 2. The Arkansas Senate is hereby authorized to employ the following full-time positions, which shall be paid from the funds appropriated by Section 1 of this Act and under such restrictions and conditions as provided by this Act:

- 1) Secretary of the Senate at a maximum annual salary rate of \$30,000.
- 2) Senate Fiscal Officer at a maximum annual salary rate of \$27,725.
- 3) Senate Properties Officer at a maximum annual salary rate of \$20,500.

SECTION 3. The Senate Efficiency Committee may, at its direction, employ Arkansas Senate employees; and may transfer or discharge any employee if it is deemed for the best interest of the Arkansas Senate.

SECTION 4. The Secretary of the Arkansas Senate is hereby directed to issue vouchers evidencing all payments authorized by the Chairman of the Efficiency Committee and, when vouchers issued covering expenditures of the Arkansas Senate have been so issued and approved, the State Auditor is directed to convert such vouchers into warrants, and the Treasurer is directed to pay the same out of the funds appropriated herein.

SECTION 5. (A) The General Assembly hereby recognizes that the increased workload of bills, resolutions, and other matters to be considered during legislative sessions, and the responsibilities of members in studying and considering such legislation and in communicating with their constituents concerning pending or proposed legislation, imposes additional burdens upon the financial resources of the individual members of the Arkansas Senate. The General Assembly further determines that service in the General Assembly requires members of the Arkansas Senate to defray the cost of maintaining a home, and in many instances, a legislative office in their representative districts, as well as incur expenses for meals, lodging, and related expenses while attending legislative sessions at the State Capitol, which imposes

additional burdens upon the financial resources of the individual members.

It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State of Arkansas that members of the Arkansas Senate shall be provided reimbursement for reasonable expenditures incurred by the members of the Arkansas Senate for the following categories of expenses incurred in attending Regular or Extraordinary Sessions of the General Assembly:

- (1) staff services of pages, secretarial, clerical, and other assistants;
- (2) postage, additional stationery, supplies, telephone and telegraph services; and
- (3) reasonable cost of rent, lodging, meals, and related living and legislative expenses incurred while attending regular or special legislative sessions.

The Secretary of the Arkansas Senate, with the approval of the Chairman of the Efficiency Committee, is hereby authorized to reimburse members of the Arkansas Senate from funds appropriated by this Act, upon the filing of claims therefor, for expenses incurred by such members with respect to the authorized expenditures hereinabove enumerated, but not to exceed seventy-four dollars (\$74.00) per day per member for each day the General Assembly is in regular or extraordinary session or so much thereof as determined by the Senate Efficiency Committee in order to coincide with the Federal per diem rate for Arkansas.

(B) In addition to the items of expense for which reimbursement may be made as provided in subsection (A) above, members of the Arkansas Senate shall be entitled to reimbursement for mileage at the same rate provided by law for state employees for official state travel, for not more than one (1) round trip per week in traveling from their place of residence to Little Rock and return for each week the General Assembly meets in Regular or Extraordinary Session.

SECTION 6. If the Chairman of the Efficiency Committee and the Secretary of the Arkansas Senate should determine that any item or portion thereof appropriated herein for a specific purpose is not needed for such purpose, they may certify such fact to the State Auditor and the State Auditor shall cause transfer to be made from one item to another.

SECTION 7. The General Assembly hereby determines that the conducting of an Institute of Legislative Procedure, prior to the convening of Regular Sessions of the General Assembly, for the orientation of existing and newly-elected members of the General Assembly on rules and legislative procedure and current fiscal conditions and other problems in state government, is essential to the proper functioning of each Regular Session of the General Assembly.

(a) The Arkansas Legislative Council and the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee shall cooperate in jointly sponsoring a biennial Institute of Legislative Procedure to carry out the aforementioned purposes. Members of the preceding General Assembly who have been re-elected to a new term in either house of the General Assembly, and newly-elected members of the House of Representatives and Arkansas Senate, shall be eligible to attend the biennial Institute of Legislative Procedure and shall be entitled, upon filing a claim therefor, to per diem in the amount fixed by law for payment to members of the General Assembly for attendance at legislative sessions per day for each day in attending the biennial Institute of Legislative Procedure, but in no event to exceed three (3) days per member, plus mileage in traveling from their place of residence to the biennial Institute of Legislative Procedure and return at the same rate of mileage authorized for official travel by state employees. Per diem and mileage for members of the General Assembly and newly-elected members of the General Assembly for attending the

biennial Institute of Legislative Procedure shall be paid by their respective houses from the monies appropriated therefor.

(b) There is hereby appropriated, to be payable from the Constitutional Officers Fund, to the Arkansas Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, to be used for payment of per diem and mileage of members of the Arkansas Senate who attend the biennial Institute of Legislative Procedure, to be held prior to the convening of the 1991 Regular Session of the General Assembly, the sum of\$ 3,750.

SECTION 8. The Chairman of the Efficiency Committee is hereby authorized to designate one or more members of the Arkansas Senate to represent the Arkansas Senate at regional or national conferences of legislators or other official meetings held during the interim between legislative sessions at which the State of Arkansas is requested to be represented by members of the General Assembly, and may pay the actual and necessary travel, meals and lodging and other expenses therefor from the funds appropriated herein.

SECTION 9. The Secretary of the Arkansas Senate, the Senate Fiscal Officer, and the Senate Properties Officer shall perform such duties during the Regular Session of the General Assembly and during the interim between the convening of Special Sessions and/or the next regular session of the General Assembly as may be provided by the rules of the Arkansas Senate or by the Arkansas Senate Efficiency Committee.

SECTION 10. REGULAR SALARIES - STAFF. There is hereby established for the Arkansas Senate for the 1989-91 biennium, the following maximum number of regular employees whose salaries shall be governed by the provisions of the Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, and all laws amendatory thereto. Provided however, that any position to which a specific maximum annual salary is set out herein in dollars, shall be exempt from the provisions of said Uniform Classification and Compensation Act. All persons occupying positions authorized herein are hereby governed by the provisions of the Regular Salaries Procedures and Restrictions Act, or its successor.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate	
				1989-90	1990-91
(1)		SENATE CHIEF OF STAFF	1	\$45,000	\$45,000
(2)		SENATE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF	1	40,000	40,000
(3)		SENATE INFORMATION DIRECTOR	1	35,000	35,000
(4)		EXECUTIVE SECRETARY	<u>1</u>	23,000	23,000
		MAXIMUM NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	4		

SECTION 11. APPROPRIATIONS - STAFF. There is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas Senate, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the Arkansas Senate staff for the biennial period ending June 30, 1991, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEARS	
	1989-90	1990-91
(1) REGULAR SALARIES	\$ 143,000	\$ 143,000
(2) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	35,525	35,525
(3) MAINTENANCE AND GENERAL OPERATIONS	<u>53,479</u>	<u>53,479</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	\$ 232,004	\$ 232,004

SECTION 12. Any balance remaining on June 30, 1990, in the appropriation provided by Section 11 herein for Maintenance and General Operations may be

carried forward into the fiscal year ending June 30, 1991, there to be used for the same purposes.

SECTION 13. The Senate Chief of Staff shall be appointed and salary determined by the Senate Efficiency Committee prior to July 1 of each fiscal year within the salary limitations as set out herein, and shall perform such duties as may be provided by the Rules of the Senate and by the Senate Efficiency Committee. Appointment to and the salary to be paid to the positions of Senate Assistant Chief of Staff, Senate Information Director, and Executive Secretary shall be made and determined, within the salary limitations as set out herein, by the Senate Efficiency Committee after receiving recommendations from the Senate Chief of Staff. Each of the employees authorized by this Act shall serve at the pleasure of the Senate Efficiency Committee. The Senate Fiscal Officer, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Senate Properties Officer shall report directly to and be responsible directly to the Senate Efficiency Committee.

SECTION 14. Due to the exacting and special duties of the office of Senate Chief of Staff, the employee appointed to the position of the Senate Chief of Staff may be reimbursed for allowable expenses in the same manner and amount as is authorized for members of the General Assembly by Arkansas Code 10-2-211, 10-2-212, and 10-2-213 or other law.

SECTION 15. There is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas Senate, to be payable from the Constitutional Officers Fund, the balance of the appropriations made by Act 2 of 1987, Act 595 of 1987, Act 38 of the First Extraordinary Session of the Seventy Sixth General Assembly, Act 2 of the Second Extraordinary Session of the Seventy Sixth General Assembly, Act 1 of the Third Extraordinary Session of the Seventy Sixth General Assembly, and Act 1 of the Fourth Extraordinary Session of the Seventy Sixth General Assembly in an amount not to exceed \$317,000.

SECTION 16. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations contained in this Act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for which this Act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

SECTION 17. All provisions of this Act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code. Act 1 of 1989 is hereby repealed.

SECTION 18. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is hereby determined that matters vitally affecting the welfare of the State of Arkansas must be dealt with by the Seventy-Seventh General Assembly, and this Act being necessary for the preservation of the peace, health and safety of the people of the State of Arkansas, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, and this Act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

APPROVED: June 23, 1989
