

ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Officers

Senator Cecile Bledsoe
Senate Chair
Representative Jeff Wardlaw
House Chair
Senator Terry Rice
Senate Vice Chair
Representative Jim Dotson
House Vice Chair



Room 315, State Capitol Building
Little Rock, AR 72201

Marty Garrity
Executive Secretary

Tel: 501-682-1937
Fax: 501-682-1936

March 25, 2020

Mr. Larry Walther, Secretary
Department of Finance & Administration
1509 West 7th Street, Suite 401
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Mr. Walther:

Pursuant to ALC Rule 16, the Co-Chairs of the Legislative Council and the ALC PEER Subcommittee determined that emergency review and approval of the following appropriation requests was necessary to enable the agencies to perform essential services:

Department of Commerce – Division of Workforce Services

- Rainy Day Fund Release, to provide essential IT upgrades and maintenance to server infrastructure - \$1,114,000;
- Cash Fund Appropriation Increase, to expense rainy day funds for IT upgrades and maintenance to server infrastructure of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) system - \$1,114,000;
- Pay Plan Account Transfer, to process the influx of unemployment claims during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency - \$90,000.

As such, the Co-Chairs of the Legislative Council and the Co-Chairs of the ALC PEER Subcommittee acted on behalf of the Legislative Council in regard to this request. This request shall be filed as reviewed and approved and reported to the Legislative Council at its next regularly scheduled meeting in accordance with ALC Rule 16.

Please notify the affected agency of this emergency approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marty Garrity".

Marty Garrity
Executive Secretary

MG:sla

Attachment

**ALC - Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER)
ALC Subcommittee Report for
Emergency Action
March 24, 2020**

On March 24, 2020, Senator Cecile Bledsoe and Representative Jeff Wardlaw, Co-Chairs of the Legislative Council, and Senator Bruce Maloch and Representative DeAnn Vaught, Co-Chairs of the PEER Subcommittee, received written notification from Larry Walther, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, requesting emergency review and/or approval of requests for a Rainy Day Fund Transfer, a Cash Appropriation Increase, and a Pay Plan Account Transfer.

Under Rule 16 of the Rules of the Arkansas Legislative Council, on March 24, 2020 the Co-Chairs of the Legislative Council and PEER Subcommittee unanimously determined that emergency approval was necessary to enable the agency to perform essential services. As such, the Co-Chairs of the Legislative Council and the Co-Chairs of the PEER Subcommittee may act on behalf of the Legislative Council in regard to this request, and state herein that the request shall be filed as review and/or approved and reported to the Legislative Council at its next regularly scheduled meeting in accordance with Rule 16.

Below is a summary of the request given emergency review and/or approval, as indicated.

Rainy Day Fund Transfer Request (Approval Item)

Department of Commerce – Division of Workforce Services – \$1,114,000

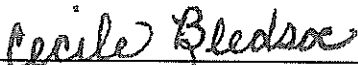
Cash Fund Appropriation Increase Request (Review Item)

Department of Commerce – Division of Workforce Services – \$1,114,000

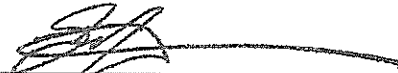
Pay Plan Account Transfer Request (Review Item)

Department of Commerce – Division of Workforce Services – \$90,000

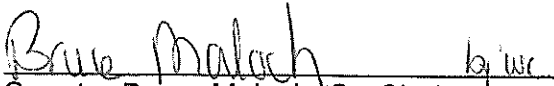
Respectfully Submitted,



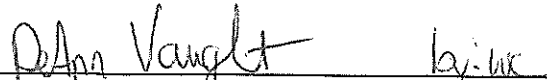
Senator Cecile Bledsoe, Co-Chair
Arkansas Legislative Council



Representative Jeff Wardlaw, Co-Chair
Arkansas Legislative Council



Senator Bruce Maloch, Co-Chair
ALC PEER Subcommittee



Representative DeAnn Vaught, Co-Chair
ALC PEER Subcommittee



STATE OF ARKANSAS
**Department of Finance
and Administration**

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March 24, 2020

Senator Cecile Bledsoe, Chair
Representative Jeff Wardlaw, Chair
Arkansas Legislative Council
State Capitol
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: Emergency Action Procedures Request

Dear Co-Chairs:

This is to inform you that there are three (3) items for Legislative Council review that require your immediate attention. Because of the time-sensitive nature of this item, the Department of Finance and Administration respectfully requests an expedited review. The following requests have received my approval as Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

The first item is a Rainy Day Fund Release Request. This release will provide for standardization of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) system of the Division of Workforce Services. This funding will provide for essential IT upgrades and maintenance to server infrastructure that cannot be delayed.

The second item is a Cash Fund Appropriation Increase Request. This appropriation will be used by the Division of Workforce Services to expense rainy day funds for IT upgrades and maintenance to server infrastructure of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) system.

The third item is a request for Overtime appropriation for the Division of Workforce Services. Additional appropriation is necessary to process the influx of unemployment claims during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

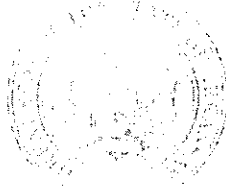
I ask that you please institute emergency action procedures for consideration of these matters and sign them out of Committee per Rule 16 of the Rules of the Arkansas Legislative Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Larry W. Walther'.

Larry W. Walther, Secretary

LWW:tw



STATE OF ARKANSAS
ASA HUTCHINSON
GOVERNOR

March 24, 2020

Senator Cecile Bledsoe, Co-Chair
Representative Jeff Wardlaw, Co-Chair
Arkansas Legislative Council
315 State Capitol
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Co-Chairs:

I respectfully request approval of the Arkansas Legislative Council, as required by A.C.A. §19-5-1262 (c)(2), to transfer from the Rainy Day Fund to the following fund or fund accounts authorized by the General Assembly, the following amount:

Arkansas Division of Workforce Services

For cash funds deposited in State Treasury –\$1,114,000

This release will be used to provide funding for standardization of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) system.

I appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Asa Hutchinson", written over a horizontal line.

Asa Hutchinson

cc: Mike Preston, Secretary
Arkansas Department of Commerce



Asa Hutchinson
GOVERNOR

Michael Preston
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

March 24, 2020

Mr. Jake Bleed, Director
Office of Budget
Department of Finance & Administration
1509 West 7th Street, Suite 401
Little Rock, AR 72203

Dear Mr. Bleed:

The Department of Commerce, Division of Workforce Services (DWS), respectfully requests a cash appropriation in the amount of \$1,114,000 with the establishment of a commitment line as referenced below.

FY 20 Cash Appropriation Request

Business Area: 0810

Fund: NWS0300

Cost Center: 427184

Commitment Item: 590:00:46

The appropriation will allow DWS to address increased accessibility requirements to the Unemployment Insurance system as a result of COVID-19 outbreak; they need to provide expanded availability of the current system in order to handle the increased volume of applicants. Funding for this request is from the Rainy Day Fund during FY20.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Preston'.

Michael Preston
Secretary



Asa Hutchinson
GOVERNOR

Michael Preston
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

March 24, 2020

Mr. Jake Bleed, Director
Office of Budget
Department of Finance and Administration
1509 West 7th Street, Suite 401
Little Rock, AR 72203

Dear Mr. Bleed:

The Department of Commerce Division of Workforce Services (DWS), respectfully requests additional appropriation in the amount of \$90,000 for overtime expenses for the current fiscal year. DWS has not experienced the volume of unemployment claims in recent history that we are anticipating over the next several weeks due to COVID-19.

Business Area: 0810
Fund: TESO100
Fund Center: 2SD
Commitment Item: 501:00:06

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Preston', written over a horizontal line.

Michael Preston
Secretary