

STATE OF ARKANSAS
MIKE BEEBE
GOVERNOR

February 1, 2012

Senator Gilbert Baker, Co-Chair
Representative Kathy Webb, Co-Chair
Joint Budget Committee
Arkansas General Assembly
State Capitol Building
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Co-Chairs:

I respectfully request an amendment to the Annual Operations Appropriation Bill for the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services.

Please AMEND the following:

In SECTION 4 – APPROPRIATION – AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009, please delete “\$100,000,000” and replace with “\$300,000,000”.

In SECTION 10 – APPROPRIATION – UI MODERNIZATION – AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA), please insert “for payment of unemployment insurance benefits,”.

Please replace Section 25 with the following:

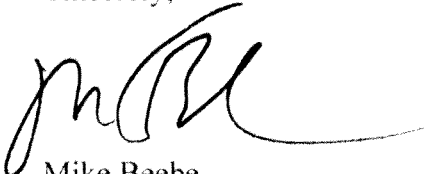
SECTION 25. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 APPROPRIATION RESTRICTIONS. ~~Of~~ The total funds appropriated in Section 10 of this Act, ~~nine million five hundred ninety five thousand ninety three dollars (\$9,595,093)~~ shall be utilized by the Department of Workforce Services for the payment of unemployment insurance benefits, salaries and related benefits and maintenance and general operation in support of administration of Unemployment Insurance (UI) Modernization provisions adopted pursuant to the ARRA-Stimulus Act of 2009. Those funds specifically identified by this section for the payment of unemployment insurance benefits, salaries and related benefits and maintenance and general operation shall be considered as obligations of the Department of Workforce Services for the purpose of implementing and administering the UI Modernization provisions. The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2011-2012~~ through June 30, ~~2012~~ 2013.

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These changes will provide additional American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) appropriation for unemployment benefits due to the federal Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act of 2011 (P.L. 112-78), and will allow ARRA unemployment insurance modernization funds to be used for unemployment benefits, which in turn will allow an equal amount of unemployment trust funds to be used to help repay Title XII advances.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Mike Beebe

MB:brs:lr