

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Fiscal Session, 2024  
4

As Engrossed: S4/23/24

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 13

5 By: Joint Budget Committee  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES  
9 AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS  
10 AFFAIRS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025; AND  
11 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
12

## Subtitle

13 AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS  
14 AFFAIRS APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2024-2025  
15 FISCAL YEAR.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY. There is hereby  
22 established for the Department of Veterans Affairs for the 2024-2025 fiscal  
23 year, the following maximum number of regular employees.  
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Item	Class		Maximum	Maximum Annual
No.	Code	Title	No. of	Salary Rate
			Employees	Fiscal Year
				2024-2025
(1)	SC015	SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS	<u>1</u>	GRADE SE05
		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	1	

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32 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY. There is hereby  
33 appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable from the  
34 Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for personal services of the Department  
35 of Veterans Affairs for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:  
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1	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
2	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>
3	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$221,420
4	(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	<u>60,444</u>
5	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$281,864</u></u>

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7 SECTION 3. REGULAR SALARIES - OPERATIONS. There is hereby established

8 for the Department of Veterans Affairs for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the

9 following maximum number of regular employees.

11			Maximum Annual
12		Maximum	Salary Rate
13	Item Class	No. of	Fiscal Year
14	<u>No. Code Title</u>	<u>Employees</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>
15	(1) U008U ADVA DIRECTOR	1	GRADE SE02
16	(2) L018N NURSE PRACTITIONER	1	GRADE MP04
17	(3) L002C NURSING DIRECTOR	2	GRADE MP04
18	(3.1) L009C NURSE MANAGER	1	GRADE MP03
19	(4) L019C REGISTERED NURSE COORDINATOR	1	GRADE MP02
20	(5) L027C REGISTERED NURSE SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE MP02
21	(6) L032C REGISTERED NURSE - HOSPITAL	18	GRADE MP01
22	(7) D079C COMPUTER SUPPORT TECHNICIAN	1	GRADE IT02
23	(8) N197N NURSING HOME DIVISION DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS15
24	(9) G039N ADVA ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS14
25	(10) L026N ADVA STATE VETERANS HOME ADMINISTRATOR	2	GRADE GS14
26	(11) A133C ADVA CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	1	GRADE GS13
27	(12) G318C ADVA DIVISION DIRECTOR	2	GRADE GS13
28	(13) A027C ACCOUNTING OPERATIONS MANAGER	1	GRADE GS11
29	(14) V036C AGENCY PROCUREMENT ADMINISTRATOR	1	GRADE GS10
30	(15) M009C LICENSED CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER	3	GRADE GS09
31	(16) L021C NURSING HOME ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR	2	GRADE GS09
32	(17) P004C PUBLIC INFORMATION MANAGER	1	GRADE GS09
33	(18) X038C QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER	1	GRADE GS09
34	(19) A082C ACCOUNTANT II	1	GRADE GS08
35	(20) S003C FOOD & BEVERAGE DIRECTOR	2	GRADE GS08
36	(21) S004C MAINTENANCE MANAGER	1	GRADE GS08

1	(22)	R014C PERSONNEL MANAGER	1	GRADE GS08
2	(23)	A041C PROGRAM FISCAL MANAGER	1	GRADE GS08
3	(24)	X062C QUALITY ASSURANCE COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS08
4	(25)	G253C ADVA SERVICE OFFICER	11	GRADE GS07
5	(26)	G237C ADVA CEMETERY MANAGER	2	GRADE GS07
6	(27)	R024C ASSISTANT PERSONNEL MANAGER	1	GRADE GS07
7	(28)	V008C BUYER SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE GS07
8	(29)	G159C DEPARTMENT BUSINESS COORDINATOR	2	GRADE GS07
9	(30)	P065C DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS07
10	(31)	C010C EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS07
11	(32)	S017C MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR	2	GRADE GS07
12	(33)	C037C ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	2	GRADE GS06
13	(34)	L069C LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE	40	GRADE GS06
14	(35)	S033C MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR	2	GRADE GS06
15	(36)	V014C BUYER	1	GRADE GS05
16	(37)	A091C FISCAL SUPPORT ANALYST	1	GRADE GS05
17	(38)	R032C HUMAN RESOURCES PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVE	4	GRADE GS05
18	(39)	M065C RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY SUPERVISOR	2	GRADE GS05
19	(40)	V018C WAREHOUSE MANAGER	1	GRADE GS05
20	(41)	C056C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST III	1	GRADE GS04
21	(42)	A098C FISCAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS04
22	(43)	S044C FOOD PREPARATION MANAGER	1	GRADE GS04
23	(44)	R036C HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS04
24	(45)	S046C MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN	9	GRADE GS04
25	(46)	C073C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST II	4	GRADE GS03
26	(47)	L082C CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT	146	GRADE GS03
27	(48)	S056C FOOD PREPARATION SUPERVISOR	3	GRADE GS03
28	(49)	S050C MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST	2	GRADE GS03
29	(50)	C087C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST I	1	GRADE GS02
30	(51)	S085C FOOD PREPARATION SPECIALIST	7	GRADE GS02
31	(52)	S060C HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR	1	GRADE GS02
32	(53)	S084C INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE GS02
33	(54)	S089C FOOD PREPARATION TECHNICIAN	<u>2</u>	GRADE GS01
34		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	303	

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36 SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - STATE OPERATIONS. There is hereby

1 appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable from the  
 2 Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for personal services and operating  
 3 expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs - State Operations for the  
 4 fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

6 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
7 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>
8 (01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$1,139,076
9 (02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	431,918
10 (03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
11 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	221,500
12 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	20,000
13 (C) PROF. FEES	0
14 (D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
15 (E) DATA PROC.	0
16 (04) AID TO COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE	
17 OFFICES	516,000
18 (05) PROMOTIONAL ITEMS	<u>10,000</u>
19 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$2,338,494</u></u>

21 SECTION 5. EXTRA HELP - VETERANS' HOMES. There is hereby authorized,  
 22 for the Department of Veterans Affairs - Veterans' Homes for the 2024-2025  
 23 fiscal year, the following maximum number of part-time or temporary  
 24 employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from funds appropriated  
 25 herein for such purposes: thirty (30) temporary or part-time employees, when  
 26 needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in the Uniform  
 27 Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act for the  
 28 appropriate classification.

30 SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - VETERANS' HOMES - CASH. There is hereby  
 31 appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable from the  
 32 cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal  
 33 Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of the  
 34 Department of Veterans Affairs - Veterans' Homes for the fiscal year ending  
 35 June 30, 2025, the following:

1	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
2	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>
3	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$8,005,689
4	(02) EXTRA HELP	45,339
5	(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	2,575,412
6	(04) OVERTIME	900,000
7	(05) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
8	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	15,652,808
9	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	16,000
10	(C) PROF. FEES	312,000
11	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	140,000
12	(E) DATA PROC.	0
13	(06) PROMOTIONAL ITEMS	10,000
14	(07) SPECIAL MAINTENANCE	<u>72,831</u>
15	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$27,730,079</u></u>

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17       SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - NW AR STATE VETERANS' HOME - CASH. There is  
 18 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable  
 19 from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief  
 20 Fiscal Officer of the State, for matching funds for land acquisition,  
 21 improvements, construction, renovation, and purchase of equipment for a State  
 22 Veterans' Home in Northwest Arkansas for the Department of Veterans Affairs -  
 23 NW AR State Veterans' Home for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the  
 24 following:

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26	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
27	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>
28	(01) NW AR STATE VETERANS HOME	<u><u>\$15,000,000</u></u>

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30       SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - NW AR STATE VETERANS' HOME - FEDERAL. There  
 31 is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable  
 32 from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the  
 33 State, for land acquisition, improvements, construction, renovation, and  
 34 purchase of equipment for a State Veterans' Home in Northwest Arkansas for  
 35 the Department of Veterans Affairs - NW AR State Veterans' Home for the  
 36 fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

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ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>
(01) NW AR STATE VETERANS HOME - FEDERAL	<u>\$30,000,000</u>

SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - VETERANS' CEMETERIES - STATE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable from the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs - Veterans' Cemeteries - State for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$737,481
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	324,195
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	158,350
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$1,220,026</u>

SECTION 10. EXTRA HELP - VETERANS' CEMETERIES - CASH. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Veterans Affairs - Veterans' Cemeteries - Cash for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the following maximum number of part-time or temporary employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from funds appropriated herein for such purposes: five (5) temporary or part-time employees, when needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in the Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act for the appropriate classification.

SECTION 11. APPROPRIATION - VETERANS' CEMETERIES - CASH. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of

1 the Department of Veterans Affairs - Veterans' Cemeteries - Cash for the  
 2 fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

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4 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
5 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>
6 (01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$62,485
7 (02) EXTRA HELP	24,000
8 (03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	25,310
9 (04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
10 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	456,075
11 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	15,000
12 (C) PROF. FEES	0
13 (D) CAP. OUTLAY	237,500
14 (E) DATA PROC.	0
15 (05) PROMOTIONAL ITEMS	<u>6,500</u>
16 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$826,870</u></u>

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18 SECTION 12. APPROPRIATION - MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS PROGRAM. There is  
 19 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable  
 20 from the Military Funeral Honors Fund, for operating expenses of the  
 21 Department of Veterans Affairs - Military Funeral Honors Program for the  
 22 fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

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24 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
25 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>
26 (01) MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS EXPENSES	<u><u>\$45,900</u></u>

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28 SECTION 13. APPROPRIATION - NLR CEMETERY EXPANSION 2 - FEDERAL. There  
 29 is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable  
 30 from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the  
 31 State, for construction and expansion expenses for the North Little Rock  
 32 Veterans' Cemetery of the Department of Veterans Affairs - NLR Cemetery  
 33 Expansion - Federal for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

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35 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
36 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>

1 (01) CONSTRUCTION AND EXPANSION EXPENSES \$2,000,000

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3 SECTION 14. REGULAR SALARIES - DISABLED VETERANS' SERVICES OFFICE.

4 There is hereby established for the Department of Veterans Affairs - Disabled  
 5 Veterans' Services Office - Disabled Veterans' Services Office for the 2024-  
 6 2025 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

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			Maximum Annual
			Salary Rate
		Maximum	Fiscal Year
Item	Class	No. of	2024-2025
No.	Code Title	Employees	
12	(1) C073C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST II	<u>1</u>	GRADE GS03
13	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	1	

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15 SECTION 15. APPROPRIATION - OPERATIONS - DISABLED VETERANS' SERVICES  
 16 OFFICE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs  
 17 - Disabled Veterans' Services Office, to be payable from the Miscellaneous  
 18 Agencies Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the  
 19 Department of Veterans Affairs - Disabled Veterans' Services Office for the  
 20 fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

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ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
NO.	2024-2025
24 (01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$27,614
25 (02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	13,932
26 (03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
27 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	3,000
28 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
29 (C) PROF. FEES	0
30 (D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
31 (E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
32 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$44,546</u>

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34 SECTION 16. REGULAR SALARIES - ARKANSAS VETERANS' CHILD WELFARE

35 SERVICE. There is hereby established for the Department of Veterans Affairs  
 36 - Arkansas Veterans' Child Welfare Service for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the



1 following maximum number of regular employees.

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Item	Class	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2024-2025
(1)	U009U ADVA VETERANS CHILD WELFARE DIR	1	GRADE GS07
(2)	C022C BUSINESS OPERATIONS SPECIALIST	<u>1</u>	GRADE GS05
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	2	

SECTION 17. APPROPRIATION - OPERATIONS - ARKANSAS VETERANS' CHILD WELFARE SERVICE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Veterans Affairs, to be payable from the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs - Arkansas Veterans' Child Welfare Service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$93,410
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	36,636
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	4,182
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(04) GRANTS/AID-ASSISTANCE TO MINOR CHILDREN	<u>42,020</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$176,248</u></u>

SECTION 18. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. USE OF ADVA CONTINGENCY POSITION POOL AND CONTINGENCY APPROPRIATION. In the event additional appropriation becomes necessary that is not authorized or contemplated in State Operations, Veterans' Homes and Veterans' Cemeteries

1 appropriations of this Act and growth in the State Veterans' Home at  
 2 Fayetteville's or North Little Rock's resident census and/or growth in the  
 3 number of interments at the State Veterans' Cemetery at North Little Rock  
 4 makes it necessary for the Arkansas Department of Veterans' Affairs to  
 5 request additional positions, regular salaries and personal services matching  
 6 appropriation in order to carry out the objectives of the Agency, the ADVA  
 7 Contingency Position Pool and Contingency Appropriation authorized herein may  
 8 be used for regular salaries and personal services matching line items.

9 The Arkansas Department of Veterans' Affairs Contingency Appropriation  
 10 authorized herein shall be funded primarily with cash funds of the State  
 11 Veterans' Home at Fayetteville or North Little Rock and of the State  
 12 Veterans' Cemetery at North Little Rock or Birdeye. Each entity's cash funds  
 13 shall be utilized in support of its own business operations and shall not be  
 14 co-mingled. In addition, general revenue funding in support of the ADVA  
 15 Contingency Position Pool shall be limited to \$250,000 per year.

16 Use of the ADVA Contingency Position Pool and Contingency Appropriation  
 17 authorized in this Act shall be conditioned upon approval by the Chief Fiscal  
 18 Officer of the State and upon certification by the Secretary of the Arkansas  
 19 Department of Veterans' Affairs that funds are available to support the  
 20 contingency positions requested and upon prior review by the Arkansas  
 21 Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee.

22 The General Assembly has determined that the Arkansas State Veterans'  
 23 Home at Fayetteville and the Arkansas State Veterans' Cemetery at North  
 24 Little Rock may operate more efficiently if some flexibility is provided to  
 25 the Arkansas Department of Veterans' Affairs under this Section.

		MAXIMUM ANNUAL		
		MAXIMUM	SALARY RATE	
ITEM	CLASS	NO. OF	FISCAL YEAR	
<u>NO.</u>	<u>CODE TITLE</u>	<u>EMPLOYEES</u>	<u><del>2023-2024</del></u>	<u>2024-2025</u>
30	(1) C087C ADMIN SPECIALIST I	1	GRADE GS02	
31	(2) S046C MAINT TECHNICIAN	1	GRADE GS04	
32	(3) S050C MAINT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS03	
33	(4) S065C MAINT ASSISTANT	3	GRADE GS01	
34	(5) L009C NURSE MANAGER	1	GRADE MP03	
35	(6) L019C REG NURSE COORD	1	GRADE MP02	
36	(7) D071C COMP SUPPORT ANALYST	1	GRADE IT03	

- 1 (8) L069C LICENSED PRACT NURSE 1 GRADE GS06
- 2 (9) M065C RECR ACTIVITY LEADER SVR 1 GRADE GS05
- 3 (10) L082C CERTIFIED NURSING ASSIST 9 GRADE GS03
- 4 (11) S087C INSTITUTIONAL SERV ASST 3 GRADE GS01

5 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2023  
 6 2024 through June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025.

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 8 SECTION 19. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds  
 9 authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency  
 10 and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and  
 11 the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and  
 12 Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary  
 13 Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal  
 14 control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by  
 15 the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be  
 16 strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

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 18 SECTION 20. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General  
 19 Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations  
 20 contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for  
 21 which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive  
 22 Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget  
 23 manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or  
 24 summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative  
 25 Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

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 27 SECTION 21. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
 28 General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits  
 29 the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the  
 30 effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2024 is essential to the operation of  
 31 the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in  
 32 the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the  
 33 effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2024 could work irreparable harm  
 34 upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental  
 35 programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act  
 36 being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health

1 and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2024.

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*/s/Joint Budget Committee*

**APPROVED: 4/30/24**