

ARKANSAS SENATE
94th General Assembly - Fiscal Session, 2024
Amendment Form

JBC 4/25/24 (1.j)

Subtitle of Senate Bill No. 51

AN ACT FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES APPROPRIATION FOR THE
2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR.

Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 51

Amend Senate Bill No. 51 as engrossed S4/24/24 (version: 4/24/2024 3:34:33 PM):

Page 19, immediately following SECTION 26, insert the following SECTION:

" SECTION 27. APPROPRIATION - MATERNAL HEALTH WORKFORCE. There is hereby appropriated, to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, to be payable from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Maternal Health Workforce Trust Fund, for financial aid and programs in education and training for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Maternal Health Workforce for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025
(01) MATERNAL HEALTH WORKFORCE FINANCIAL AID AND PROGRAMS IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING EXPENSES	<u>\$2,000,000</u>

SECTION 28. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings - Maternal Health Workforce.

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Arkansas faces significant challenges in maternal health as the highest-ranking state in infant and maternal mortality;

(2) Data from the National Center for Health Statistics and the Department of Health indicates that the state's maternal mortality rate is forty-three point five (43.5) per one hundred thousand (100,000) births compared to a national average of twenty-three point five (23.5) per one hundred thousand (100,000) births based on our most recent data in ending in 2021;

(3) Additionally, disparities exist within the state even when accounting for chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and obesity, as rural areas often have very limited or no access to maternal healthcare services;

(4) In 2021, three hundred nine (309) infants in Arkansas died before reaching their first birthdays, and there was an infant mortality rate



of eight point six (8.6) per one thousand (1,000) live births compared to a national average of five point four (5.4) per one thousand (1,000);

(5) In 2002, one (1) in nine (9) babies was born preterm and one (1) in eleven (11) babies was born low birthweight;

(6) In an average week, out of one thousand three hundred sixty-nine (1,369) babies born, only four hundred ninety-four (494) women receive adequate prenatal care;

(7) Arkansas faces a stark reality that forty-five and three-tenths percent (45.3%) of its counties are maternity care deserts compared to thirty-two and six-tenths percent (32.6%) nationally;

(8) This shortage of maternal health providers, especially in rural areas, leads to delayed or inadequate prenatal care and heightens the risks for both mothers and infants;

(9) Expanding the maternal health workforce is imperative;

(10) With better access to care, pregnant women can receive timely interventions for high-risk pregnancies, reducing adverse outcomes, and reducing low birthweight and preterm deliveries;

(11) Moreover, a well-trained workforce can offer vital prenatal education, fostering healthier pregnancies and births;

(12) Investing in recruiting and retaining maternal health professionals is key in saving Arkansas women and babies;

(13) By providing better care, Arkansas can not only save on healthcare costs but also bolster its workforce and economy; and

(14) Prioritizing these initiatives will fortify Arkansas's healthcare system and ensure equitable access for all.

SECTION 29. SPECIAL LANGUAGE – CODE AMENDMENT. Arkansas Code Title 19, Chapter 5, Subchapter 11, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

19-5-1160. University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Maternal Health Workforce Trust Fund.

(a) There is created on the books of the Treasurer of State, the Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a trust fund to be known as the "University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Maternal Health Workforce Trust Fund".

(b) The fund shall consist of:

(1) Moneys obtained from private grants or other sources that are designated to be credited to the fund; and

(2) Any other funds authorized or provided by law.

(c)(1) The fund shall be used by University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences solely to open and offer programs in education and training, including without limitation:

(A) Obstetrician-gynecologist residencies and fellowships;

(B) Family practice obstetrician fellowships;

(C) Nursing Midwife certifications;

(D) Doula certifications;

(E) Maternal community health worker training; and

(F) Maternal therapist certifications.

(2) The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences shall prioritize spending and allocating funds in a manner to maximize impact of

the expanded maternal health workforce considering the recommendations of the Maternal Mortality Review Committee.

(d) Funds may be allocated to student financial aid in the form of scholarships and loans for students who agree to:

(1) Participate in programs offered by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; and

(2) Practice in the State of Arkansas for at least two (2) years.

(e) The Treasurer of State shall invest the moneys available in the fund.

(f)(1) The investment of funds under this section is exempt from § 19-3-518(a)(2)(B)(i)(b) and (c).

(2) Moneys in the fund may be invested in any instrument:

(A) Listed in § 19-3-518(b)(1)(B); and

(B) Approved by the guidelines established by the State Treasury investment policy approved by the State Board of Finance.

(g) Moneys remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year shall carry forward and be made available for the purposes stated in this section in the next fiscal year.

(h)(1) The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences shall submit a semiannual report containing the following information to the Governor; the Legislative Council or, if the General Assembly is in session, the Joint Budget Committee; the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor; and the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor:

(A) The balance of the fund as of the reporting date;

(B) A list of the administrative costs paid for from the fund, including without limitation salaries, pensions, and packages;

(C) The total revenue received by the fund during the reporting period; and

(D) A detailed description of the steps taken and the progress made toward addressing the maternal health workforce needs of Arkansas during the reporting period.

(2) The semiannual report required under this subsection shall be submitted by January 1 and July 1 of each year."

AND

Appropriately renumber subsequent SECTION numbers of the bill.

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and _____

By: Joint Budget Committee

By: Representative L. Johnson

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Secretary