**D.1** 

# ARKANSAS SENATE

93rd General Assembly - Fiscal Session, 2022

Amendment Form

**DRAFT** 

Subtitle of Senate Bill No. 107

AN ACT FOR THE AUDITOR OF STATE - CONTRACTING WITH ATTORNEYS FOR THE DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2021-2022 FISCAL YEAR.

## Amendment No. \_\_\_ to Senate Bill No. 107

Amend Senate Bill No. 107 as originally introduced:

Add Representatives Gazaway, McCullough as cosponsors of the bill

AND

Page 1, line 8, delete "CONTRACTING WITH" and substitute with "EXTRA HELP"

AND

Page 1, line 9, delete "ATTORNEYS"

AND

Page 1, line 16, delete "CONTRACTING WITH ATTORNEYS" and substitute with "EXTRA HELP"

AND

Delete SECTION 1 and SECTION 2 in its entirety and substitute with:

"SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - EXTRA HELP - CASH. There is hereby
appropriated, to the Auditor of State-Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys, to be
payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by
the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for extra help and associated matching
costs for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, the following:

ITEM NO.

FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

(01) EXTRA HELP AND ASSOCIATED MATCHING COSTS

\$4,500,000

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - EXTRA HELP - FEDERAL FUNDS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Auditor of State-Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys, to

DRAFT

JAR107 - 03-02-2022 13:55:48

be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for extra help and associated matching costs for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, the following:

NO.

FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

(01) EXTRA HELP AND ASSOCIATED MATCHING COSTS

\$4,500,000

SECTION 3. EXTRA HELP. There is hereby authorized, for the Auditor of State - Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys for the 2021-2022 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: forty-five (45) 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."

AND

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and	
By: Senator C. Tucker	
JAR/JAR - 03-02-2022 13:55:48	
JAR107	Secretary

1	State of Arkansas
2	93rd General Assembly A Bill
3	Fiscal Session, 2022 SENATE BILL 107
4	
5	By: Senator C. Tucker
6	
7	For An Act To Be Entitled
8	AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR CONTRACTING WITH
9	ATTORNEYS FOR THE DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS FOR
10	THE AUDITOR OF STATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE
11	30, 2022; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12	
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14	Subtitle
15	AN ACT FOR THE AUDITOR OF STATE -
16	CONTRACTING WITH ATTORNEYS FOR THE DEPUTY
17	PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS APPROPRIATION FOR
18	THE 2021-2022 FISCAL YEAR.
19	
20	
21	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
22	
23	SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - CONTRACTING WITH ATTORNEYS. There is hereby
24	appropriated, to the Auditor of State, to be payable from the State Central
25	Services Fund, for contracting with attorneys for the fiscal year ending June
26	30, 2022, the following:
27	
28	ITEM FISCAL YEAR
29	NO. 2021-2022
30	(01) CONTRACTING WITH ATTORNEYS \$1,000,000
31	
32	SECTION 2. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
33	CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
34	LEGISLATIVE INTENT. (a) The General Assembly recognizes that the normal
35	functioning of the criminal justice system has been severely hampered by the
36	ongoing coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, with court dockets slowed jury



- trials suspended, and the basic functions of visiting with witnesses and clients virtually grinding to a halt due to social distancing and masking rules put in place at the beginning of the pandemic.
- (b) Now, with criminal trials resuming for the time being, the backlog of criminal cases remains, putting undue stress on the state's prosecutors who are still attempting to resolve the thousands of backlogged cases while contending with the normal influx of new criminal cases.
- (c)(1) The General Assembly intends for the appropriation provided for under this section to be used for the hiring of additional deputy prosecuting attorneys for a certain and limited period of time in order to help reduce the backlog in criminal cases that currently exists throughout the state.
- (2) Specifically, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the appropriation provided for under this section be given to the office of the Prosecutor Coordinator for the office to hire, in its discretion, up to forty-five (45) additional attorneys in either a full-time or part-time capacity, subject to lawful terms negotiated by the office, to address the backlog in criminal cases.
- (3) This section does not create new, permanent positions in the office but rather provides funding for extra help for a limited term to be negotiated by the office in its discretion.

SECTION 3. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

SECTION 4. 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

1	manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or
2	summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative
3	Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.
4	
5	SECTION 5. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General
6	Assembly of the State of Arkansas that coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) created a
7	backlog in the criminal justice system and has put undue stress on the
8	state's prosecutors. There is a need to hire deputy prosecuting attorneys in
9	an extra help capacity in order to help reduce the backlog in criminal cases
10	that currently exists throughout the state. Therefore, an emergency is
11	declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the
12	preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective
13	on:
14	(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;
15	(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
16	the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
17	bill; or
18	(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
19	overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.
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# **ARKANSAS SENATE**

93rd General Assembly - Fiscal Session, 2022

#### **Amendment Form**

**DRAFT** 

#### Subtitle of Senate Bill No. 108

AN ACT FOR THE AUDITOR OF STATE - CONTRACTING WITH ATTORNEYS FOR THE DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2022-2023 FISCAL YEAR.

### Amendment No. \_\_\_ to Senate Bill No. 108

Amend Senate Bill No. 108 as originally introduced:

Add Representatives Gazaway, McCullough as cosponsors of the bill

AND

Page 1, line 8, delete "CONTRACTING WITH" and substitute with "EXTRA HELP"

AND

Page 1, line 9, delete "ATTORNEYS"

AND

Page 1, line 16, delete "CONTRACTING WITH ATTORNEYS" and substitute with "EXTRA HELP"

AND

Delete SECTION 1 and SECTION 2 in its entirety and substitute with:

"SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - EXTRA HELP - CASH. There is hereby
appropriated, to the Auditor of State-Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys, to be
payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by
the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for extra help and associated matching
costs for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the following:

ITEM NO.

FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023

(01) EXTRA HELP AND ASSOCIATED MATCHING COSTS

\$4,500,000

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - EXTRA HELP - FEDERAL FUNDS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Auditor of State-Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys, to

DRAFT

JAR108 - 03-02-2022 13:57:35

be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for extra help and associated matching costs for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the following:

NO.

FISCAL YEAR \_\_2022-2023

(01) EXTRA HELP AND ASSOCIATED MATCHING COSTS

\$4,500,000

SECTION 3. EXTRA HELP. There is hereby authorized, for the Auditor of State - Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys for the 2022-2023 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: forty-five (45) 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."

AND

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and	
By: Senator C. Tucker JAR/JAR - 03-02-2022 13:57:35	
JAR108	Secretary

1	State of Arkansas
2	93rd General Assembly A Bill
3	Fiscal Session, 2022 SENATE BILL 103
4	
5	By: Senator C. Tucker
6	
7	For An Act To Be Entitled
8	AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR CONTRACTING WITH
9	ATTORNEYS FOR THE DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS FOR
10	THE AUDITOR OF STATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE
11	30, 2023; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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14	Subtitle
15	AN ACT FOR THE AUDITOR OF STATE -
16	CONTRACTING WITH ATTORNEYS FOR THE DEPUTY
17	PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS APPROPRIATION FOR
18	THE 2022-2023 FISCAL YEAR.
19	
20	
21	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
22	
23	SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - CONTRACTING WITH ATTORNEYS. There is hereby
24	appropriated, to the Auditor of State, to be payable from the State Central
25	Services Fund, for contracting with attorneys for the fiscal year ending June
26	30, 2023, the following:
27	
28	ITEM FISCAL YEAR
29	NO. 2022-2023
30	(01) CONTRACTING WITH ATTORNEYS \$3,250,000
31	
32	SECTION 2. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
33	CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
34	LEGISLATIVE INTENT. (a) The General Assembly recognizes that the normal
35	functioning of the criminal justice system has been severely hampered by the
36	ongoing coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, with court dockets slowed, jury



- trials suspended, and the basic functions of visiting with witnesses and clients virtually grinding to a halt due to social distancing and masking rules put in place at the beginning of the pandemic.
  - (b) Now, with criminal trials resuming for the time being, the backlog of criminal cases remains, putting undue stress on the state's prosecutors who are still attempting to resolve the thousands of backlogged cases while contending with the normal influx of new criminal cases.
  - (c)(l) The General Assembly intends for the appropriation provided for under this section to be used for the hiring of additional deputy prosecuting attorneys for a certain and limited period of time in order to help reduce the backlog in criminal cases that currently exists throughout the state.
  - (2) Specifically, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the appropriation provided for under this section be given to the office of the Prosecutor Coordinator for the office to hire, in its discretion, up to forty-five (45) additional attorneys in either a full-time or part-time capacity, subject to lawful terms negotiated by the office, to address the backlog in criminal cases.
  - (3) This section does not create new, permanent positions in the office but rather provides funding for extra help for a limited term to be negotiated by the office in its discretion.

SECTION 3. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

SECTION 4. 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

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manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or
 1
     summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative
 2
     Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.
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           SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This act is effective on and after July 1,
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     2022.
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**D.3** 

# **ARKANSAS SENATE**

93rd General Assembly - Fiscal Session, 2022

#### **Amendment Form**

**DRAFT** 

Subtitle of Senate Bill No. 109

AN ACT FOR THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION - CONTRACTING WITH ATTORNEYS APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2022-2023 FISCAL YEAR.

## Amendment No. \_\_\_ to Senate Bill No. 109

Amend Senate Bill No. 109 as originally introduced:

Add Representatives Gazaway, McCullough as cosponsors of the bill

AND

Page 1, line 8, delete "CONTRACTING WITH" and substitute with "EXTRA HELP"

AND

Page 1, line 9, delete "ATTORNEYS"

AND

Page 1, line 16, delete "CONTRACTING WITH ATTORNEYS" and substitute with "EXTRA HELP"  $^{\circ}$ 

AND

Delete SECTION 1 and SECTION 2 in its entirety and substitute with:

"SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - EXTRA HELP - CASH. There is hereby
appropriated, to the Arkansas Public Defender Commission, to be payable from
the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief
Fiscal Officer of the State, for extra help and associated matching costs for
the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the following:

ITEM NO.

FISCAL YEAR \_\_2022-2023

(01) EXTRA HELP AND ASSOCIATED MATCHING COSTS

\$4,500,000

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - EXTRA HELP - FEDERAL FUNDS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas Public Defender Commission, to be

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JAR109 - 03-02-2022 13:58:48

payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for extra help and associated matching costs for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the following:

NO.

FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023

(01) EXTRA HELP AND ASSOCIATED MATCHING COSTS

\$4,500,000

SECTION 3. EXTRA HELP. There is hereby authorized, for the Arkansas Public Defender Commission for the 2022-2023 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: forty-five (45) 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."

AND

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the sec	cond time and
By: Senator C. Tucker	·
JAR/JAR - 03-02-2022 13:58:48	
JAR109	Secretary

1 2	State of Arkansas 93rd General Assembly  A Bill	
3	Fiscal Session, 2022 SENATE BILL 1	<u>09</u>
4		0)
5	By: Senator C. Tucker	
6		
7	For An Act To Be Entitled	
8	AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR CONTRACTING WITH	
9	ATTORNEYS FOR THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION	
10	FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023; AND FOR	
11	OTHER PURPOSES.	
12		
13		
L4	Subtitle	
15	AN ACT FOR THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC DEFENDER	
16	COMMISSION - CONTRACTING WITH ATTORNEYS	
L 7	APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2022-2023 FISCAL	
18	YEAR.	
19		
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21 22	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:	
23	SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - CONTRACTING WITH ATTORNEYS. There is hereb	у
24	appropriated, to the Arkansas Public Defender Commission, to be payable from	a
25	the State Central Services Fund, for contracting with attorneys of the	
26	Arkansas Public Defender Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023	3,
27	the following:	
28		
29	ITEM FISCAL YEAR	
30	NO. 2022-2023	
31 32	(01) CONTRACTING WITH ATTORNEYS \$3,250,000	
33	SECTION 2. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS	3
34	CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.	
35	LEGISLATIVE INTENT. (a) The General Assembly recognizes that the normal	
36	functioning of the criminal justice system has been severely hampered by the	3



- ongoing coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, with court dockets slowed, jury trials suspended, and the basic functions of visiting with witnesses and clients virtually grinding to a halt due to social distancing and masking rules put in place at the beginning of the pandemic.
  - (b) Now, with criminal trials resuming for the time being, the backlog of criminal cases remains, putting undue stress on the state's public defenders who are still attempting to resolve the thousands of backlogged cases while contending with the normal influx of new criminal cases.
  - (c)(1) The General Assembly intends for the appropriation provided for under this section to be used for the hiring of additional public defenders for a certain and limited period of time in order to help reduce the backlog in criminal cases that currently exists throughout the state.
  - (2) Specifically, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the appropriation provided for under this section be given to the Arkansas Public Defender Commission for the commission to hire, in its discretion, up to forty-five (45) additional attorneys in either a full-time or part-time capacity, subject to lawful terms negotiated by the commission, to address the backlog in criminal cases.
  - (3) This section does not create new, permanent positions in the commission but rather provides funding for extra help for a limited term to be negotiated by the commission in its discretion.

SECTION 3. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

SECTION 4. 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

T	Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget
2	manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or
3	summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative
4	Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.
5	
6	SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This act is effective on and after July 1,
7	2022.
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**D.4** 

# ARKANSAS SENATE

93rd General Assembly - Fiscal Session, 2022

#### **Amendment Form**

DRAFT

Subtitle of Senate Bill No. 110

AN ACT FOR THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION - CONTRACTING WITH ATTORNEYS APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2021-2022 FISCAL YEAR.

## Amendment No. \_\_\_ to Senate Bill No. 110

Amend Senate Bill No. 110 as originally introduced:

Add Representatives Gazaway, McCullough as cosponsors of the bill

AND

Page 1, line 8, delete "CONTRACTING WITH" and substitute with "EXTRA HELP"

AND

Page 1, line 9, delete "ATTORNEYS"

AND

Page 1, line 16, delete "CONTRACTING WITH ATTORNEYS" and substitute with "EXTRA HELP"

AND

Delete SECTION 1 and SECTION 2 in its entirety and substitute with:

"SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - EXTRA HELP - CASH. There is hereby
appropriated, to the Arkansas Public Defender Commission, to be payable from
the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief
Fiscal Officer of the State, for extra help and associated matching costs for
the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, the following:

ITEM NO.

FISCAL YEAR \_\_\_2021-2022

(01) EXTRA HELP AND ASSOCIATED MATCHING COSTS

\$4,500,000

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - EXTRA HELP - FEDERAL FUNDS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas Public Defender Commission, to be

DRAFT

JAR110 - 03-02-2022 14:00:13

payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for extra help and associated matching costs for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, the following:

ITEM NO.

FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

(01) EXTRA HELP AND ASSOCIATED MATCHING COSTS

\$4,500,000

SECTION 3. EXTRA HELP. There is hereby authorized, for the Arkansas Public Defender Commission for the 2021-2022 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: forty-five (45) 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."

AND

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the so	econd time and
By: Senator C. Tucker	
JAR/JAR - 03-02-2022 14:00:13	
JAR110	Secretary

1	State of Arkansas	
2	93rd General Assembly A Bill	
3	Fiscal Session, 2022 SENATE BILL 1	10
4		
5	By: Senator C. Tucker	
6		
7	For An Act To Be Entitled	
8	AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR CONTRACTING WITH	
9	ATTORNEYS FOR THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION	
10	FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2022; AND FOR	
11	OTHER PURPOSES.	
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14 15	Subtitle	
16	AN ACT FOR THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC DEFENDER	
17	COMMISSION - CONTRACTING WITH ATTORNEYS	
18	APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2021-2022 FISCAL YEAR.	
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20		
21	BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:	
22	MANAGAD.	
23	SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - CONTRACTING WITH ATTORNEYS. There is hereb	v
24	appropriated, to the Arkansas Public Defender Commission, to be payable from	•
25	the State Central Services Fund, for contracting with attorneys of the	
26	Arkansas Public Defender Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022	2,
27	the following:	•
28		
29	ITEM FISCAL YEAR	
30	NO. 2021-2022	
31	(01) CONTRACTING WITH ATTORNEYS \$1,000,000	
32		
33	SECTION 2. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS	3
34	CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.	
35	LEGISLATIVE INTENT. (a) The General Assembly recognizes that the normal	
36	functioning of the criminal justice system has been severely hampered by the	<u>.</u>



- ongoing coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, with court dockets slowed, jury trials suspended, and the basic functions of visiting with witnesses and clients virtually grinding to a halt due to social distancing and masking rules put in place at the beginning of the pandemic.
  - (b) Now, with criminal trials resuming for the time being, the backlog of criminal cases remains, putting undue stress on the state's public defenders who are still attempting to resolve the thousands of backlogged cases while contending with the normal influx of new criminal cases.
  - (c)(l) The General Assembly intends for the appropriation provided for under this section to be used for the hiring of additional public defenders for a certain and limited period of time in order to help reduce the backlog in criminal cases that currently exists throughout the state.
    - (2) Specifically, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the appropriation provided for under this section be given to the Arkansas Public Defender Commission for the commission to hire, in its discretion, up to forty-five (45) additional attorneys in either a full-time or part-time capacity, subject to lawful terms negotiated by the commission, to address the backlog in criminal cases.
    - (3) This section does not create new, permanent positions in the commission but rather provides funding for extra help for a limited term to be negotiated by the commission in its discretion.

SECTION 3. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

SECTION 4. 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

Ţ	Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget
2	manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or
3	summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative
4	Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.
5	
6	SECTION 5. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General
7	Assembly of the State of Arkansas that coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) created a
8	backlog in the criminal justice system and has put undue stress on the
9	state's public defenders. There is a need to hire public defenders in a
10	extra help capacity in order to help reduce the backlog in criminal cases
11	that currently exists throughout the state. Therefore, an emergency is
12	declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the
13	preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective
14	on:
15	(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;
16	(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
17	the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
18	<pre>bill; or</pre>
19	(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
20	overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.
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