

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Fiscal Session, 2026  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 8

5 By: Joint Budget Committee  
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7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES  
10 AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
11 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027; AND FOR  
12 OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

15 AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
16 APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2026-2027 FISCAL  
17 YEAR.  
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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23 SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - SHARED SERVICES. There is hereby  
24 established for the Department of Commerce for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the  
25 following maximum number of regular employees.  
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Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2026-2027
31	(1) ESE02A	SECRETARY OF COMMERCE	1	GRADE EXE04
32	(2) EEX10A	CHIEF OF STAFF II	1	GRADE EXE02
33	(3) EEX12A	CHIEF WORKFORCE OFFICER	1	GRADE EXE02
34	(4) FAC09C	CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER II	1	GRADE SPC10
35	(5) HDH03C	HR ADMINISTRATOR II	1	GRADE SPC08
36	(6) CPR02C	CHIEF OF COMMUNICATIONS II	1	GRADE SPC07



1	(7)	FAC10C CONTROLLER	2	GRADE SPC06
2	(8)	LAT04P ATTORNEY II	1	GRADE SPC05
3	(9)	FAC03P ACCOUNTING COORDINATOR	3	GRADE SPC03
4	(10)	FAC02P ACCOUNTANT II	2	GRADE SPC02
5	(11)	PED03P ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SPC02
6	(12)	FAC01P ACCOUNTANT I	2	GRADE SPC01
7	(13)	PPR03C PROCUREMENT MANAGER	1	GRADE SGS10
8	(14)	HDH08P HR SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	2	GRADE SGS08
9	(15)	CPR08P PUBLIC INFORMATION SUPERVISOR/EXP	2	GRADE SGS08
10	(16)	PAS08I EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	2	GRADE SGS07
11	(17)	FFS05P FISCAL SUPPORT SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	1	GRADE SGS07
12	(18)	HDH05P HR COORDINATOR	6	GRADE SGS07
13	(19)	PPR02P PROCUREMENT COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS07
14	(20)	FFS02P FISCAL SUPPORT COORDINATOR	2	GRADE SGS06
15	(21)	CPR07P PUBLIC INFORMATION SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS06
16	(22)	PAS02P ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS04
17	(23)	HBE01P BENEFITS ANALYST	1	GRADE SGS04
18	(24)	HDH07P HR SPECIALIST	12	GRADE SGS04
19	(25)	SRL01P ENFORCEMENT AGENT I	1	GRADE LES03
20	(26)	IIA03C CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER III	1	GRADE IST14
21	(27)	IIS11P IT SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	2	GRADE IST09
22	(28)	IAS08I WEBSITE SPECIALIST	1	GRADE IST05
23	(29)	IUS04P USER SUPPORT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE IST02
24	(30)	LAT05P ATTORNEY III	1	GRADE SPC08
25	(31)	HDH04P HR ANALYST	1	GRADE SGS06
26	(32)	IAS07C STATE APPLICATIONS ADMIN	1	GRADE IST11
27	(33)	IUS02P USER SUPPORT COORDINATOR	<u>1</u>	GRADE IST05
28		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	59	

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30 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - SHARED SERVICES PAYING ACCOUNT. There is

31 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the

32 paying account as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for

33 personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Commerce -

34 Shared Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

35

36 ITEM FISCAL YEAR

NO.		2026-2027
(01)	REGULAR SALARIES	\$4,400,000
(02)	PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	1,502,564
(03)	MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	500,000
	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	200,000
	(C) PROF. FEES	100,000
	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	100,000
	(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$6,802,564</u></u>

SECTION 3. REGULAR SALARIES. There is hereby established for the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2026-2027
(1)	EEX01A	AEDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	1	GRADE EXE02
(2)	PPE04C	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATOR	3	GRADE SPC08
(3)	PED04P	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUPV/EXP	6	GRADE SPC07
(4)	FAC04C	ACCOUNTING MANAGER	1	GRADE SPC06
(5)	PED02P	ECONOMIC DEVELOP PROJECT CONSULT	11	GRADE SPC06
(6)	LAT04P	ATTORNEY II	1	GRADE SPC05
(7)	PED03P	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST	20	GRADE SPC02
(8)	CPR08P	PUBLIC INFORMATION SUPERVISOR/EXP	2	GRADE SGS08
(9)	PCO01P	COMMERCE PROGRAM COORDINATOR	2	GRADE SGS07
(10)	CME03P	GRAPHIC ARTIST	1	GRADE SGS07
(11)	CPR05P	PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR	2	GRADE SGS07
(12)	HBE02P	BENEFITS COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS06
(13)	FFS02P	FISCAL SUPPORT COORDINATOR	4	GRADE SGS06
(14)	PAS01P	ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	4	GRADE SGS05
(15)	FGM02P	GRANTS COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS05
(16)	PAS02P	ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	6	GRADE SGS04
(17)	PPE11C	RURAL SERVICES DIRECTOR	1	GRADE SPC05

1 (18) PC003P COMMERCE PROGRAM SPECIALIST 1 GRADE SGS06  
 2 MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES 68

3  
 4 SECTION 4. EXTRA HELP. There is hereby authorized, for the Department  
 5 of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission for the 2026-2027  
 6 fiscal year, the following maximum number of part-time or temporary  
 7 employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from funds appropriated  
 8 herein for such purposes: seven (7) temporary or part-time employees, when  
 9 needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in the Uniform  
 10 Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act for the  
 11 appropriate classification.

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 13 SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - STATE OPERATIONS. There is hereby  
 14 appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Arkansas  
 15 Economic Development Commission Fund Account, for personal services,  
 16 operating expenses, grants and aid, and state matching funds of the  
 17 Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - State  
 18 Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

20 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
21 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
22 (01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$3,967,320
23 (02) EXTRA HELP	50,000
24 (03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	1,283,186
25 (04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
26 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	1,450,650
27 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	141,486
28 (C) PROF. FEES	1,765,000
29 (D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
30 (E) DATA PROC.	0
31 (05) ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE/REGIONALISM	
32 GRANTS	877,588
33 (06) GLOBAL BUSINESS INITIATIVES	900,000
34 (07) MILITARY AFFAIRS GRANT PROGRAM	750,000
35 (08) INDUSTRY TRAINING PROGRAM	<u>1,714,800</u>
36 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$12,900,030</u>

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SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE (CDBG) - FEDERAL.

There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Community Assistance (CDBG) - Federal for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$382,165
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	136,675
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	60,600
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	25,000
(C) PROF. FEES	70,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(04) GRANTS/AIDS - CDBG	48,261,988
(05) STORM RECOVERY GRANTS	<u>7,579,614</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$56,516,042</u>

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - CDBG DISASTER RECOVERY. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for addressing long term recovery and restoration of infrastructure, housing and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas of the State for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) CDBG DISASTER RECOVERY	<u>\$8,933,441</u>

SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS ACCELERATION FUND. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Arkansas

1 Acceleration Fund, for grants and incentives to accelerate the economy of the  
 2 State through technology and knowledge-based development of the Department of  
 3 Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Arkansas Acceleration  
 4 Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) ACCELERATION GRANTS & INCENTIVES	<u>\$5,000,000</u>

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 10 SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - SUPER PROJECTS. There is hereby  
 11 appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Economic  
 12 Development Superprojects Project Fund, for Super Projects as defined by  
 13 Amendment 82 to the Arkansas Constitution of the Department of Commerce -  
 14 Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Super Projects for the fiscal year  
 15 ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) SUPER PROJECTS	<u>\$6,000,000</u>

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 21 SECTION 10. APPROPRIATION - NEW MARKETS PERFORMANCE PROGRAM. There is  
 22 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the  
 23 New Markets Performance Guarantee Fund, for refunds and reimbursements of  
 24 performance program application fees of the Department of Commerce - Arkansas  
 25 Economic Development Commission - New Markets Performance Program for the  
 26 fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) REFUNDS/REIMBURSEMENTS	<u>\$142,266</u>

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 32 SECTION 11. APPROPRIATION - QUICK ACTION CLOSING FUND. There is hereby  
 33 appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Economic  
 34 Development Incentive Quick Action Closing Fund, for incentives to attract  
 35 new business and economic development to the State by the Department of  
 36 Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Quick Action Closing

1 Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

2	3 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
4	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
5	(01) QUICK ACTION CLOSING GRANTS	<u>\$75,000,000</u>

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7 SECTION 12. APPROPRIATION - DIVISION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - STATE  
 8 OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to  
 9 be payable from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission Fund Account,  
 10 for personal services, operating expenses and grants and aid by the Division  
 11 of Science and Technology of the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic  
 12 Development Commission - State Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
 13 2027, the following:

14	15 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
16	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
17	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$394,495
18	(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	147,361
19	(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
20	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	0
21	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
22	(C) PROF. FEES	0
23	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
24	(E) DATA PROC.	0
25	(04) GRANTS & AID - ARKANSAS RESEARCH MATCH	1,092,653
26	(05) TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	156,975
27	(06) SEED CAPITAL INVESTMENTS	292,653
28	(07) ARKANSAS ACCELERATION FUND PROGRAM	<u>11,600,000</u>
29	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$13,684,137</u>

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31 SECTION 13. APPROPRIATION - DIVISION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - SEED  
 32 CAPITAL INVESTMENT - CASH. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department  
 33 of Commerce, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury  
 34 as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for investments in  
 35 technology based businesses by the Division of Science and Technology of the  
 36 Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Seed

1 Capital Investment - Cash for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the  
 2 following:

4 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
5 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
6 (01) INVESTMENTS	<u>\$1,040,000</u>

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 8 SECTION 14. APPROPRIATION - RURAL SERVICES DIVISION - STATE OPERATIONS.

9 There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable  
 10 from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission Fund Account, for personal  
 11 services, operating expenses and grants and aid by the Department of Commerce  
 12 - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Rural Services Division - State  
 13 Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

15 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
16 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
17 (01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$154,934
18 (02) EXTRA HELP	2,000
19 (03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	63,022
20 (04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
21 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	72,038
22 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	4,100
23 (C) PROF. FEES	0
24 (D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
25 (E) DATA PROC.	0
26 (05) GRANTS & AID - RURAL COMMUNITY GRANTS	500,000
27 (06) RURAL FIRE PROTECTION GRANTS	<u>900,000</u>
28 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$1,696,094</u>

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 30 SECTION 15. APPROPRIATION - RURAL SERVICES DIVISION - CONFERENCE CASH.

31 There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable  
 32 from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief  
 33 Fiscal Officer of the State, for conference expenses of the Rural Services  
 34 Division of the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development  
 35 Commission - Conference Cash for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the  
 36 following:

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2	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
3	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
4	(01) CONFERENCE EXPENSES	<u>\$150,000</u>

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6 SECTION 16. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION -

7 RURAL SERVICES - FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM. There is

8 hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the

9 cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal

10 Officer of the State, for grants and operating expenses for the Fish and

11 Wildlife Conservation Education Program by the Department of Commerce -

12 Arkansas Economic Development Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30,

13 2027, the following:

14		
15	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
16	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
17	(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
18	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$0
19	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
20	(C) PROF. FEES	0
21	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	50,000
22	(E) DATA PROC.	0
23	(02) FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION	
24	EDUCATION GRANTS AND AID	<u>800,000</u>
25	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$850,000</u>

26

27 SECTION 17. APPROPRIATION - MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS

28 ENTERPRISE LOAN MOBILIZATION. There is hereby appropriated, to the

29 Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission, to be

30 payable from the Minority and Women-Owned Business Loan Mobilization

31 Revolving Fund, for promotion and development of minority and women-owned

32 business enterprises in the state, increasing the ability of minority and

33 women-owned business enterprises to compete for state contracts, and

34 sustaining the economic growth of minority and women-owned businesses for the

35 fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

36

1	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
2	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>

3	(01) MINORITY & WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS	
4	ENTERPRISE MOBILIZATION LOAN	<u>\$500,000</u>

5

6 SECTION 18. APPROPRIATION - RURAL SERVICES DIVISION - LAW ENFORCEMENT

7 GRANTS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce -

8 Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Rural Services Division, to be

9 payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by

10 the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for grants to law enforcement agencies

11 and associations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

13	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
14	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>

15	(01) GRANTS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES	<u>\$5,000,000</u>
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17 SECTION 19. APPROPRIATION - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE - PAYROLL

18 REBATE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be

19 payable from the Economic Development Incentive Fund for financial incentives

20 to companies locating a new facility or expanding an existing facility with

21 the State of Arkansas for companies that hire and maintain specified levels

22 of employment for the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development

23 Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

25	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
26	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>

27	(01) GRANTS AND AID - PAYROLL REBATE	<u>\$37,500,000</u>
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29 SECTION 20. APPROPRIATION - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE - RECYCLE

30 TAX CREDIT. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce -

31 Arkansas Economic Development Commission, to be payable from the Economic

32 Development Incentive Fund to provide recycling tax credits in accordance

33 with Arkansas Code 26-51-506 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the

34 following:

36	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
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NO.	2026-2027
(01) GRANTS AND AID - RECYCLING TAX CREDITS	<u>\$42,000,000</u>

SECTION 21. APPROPRIATION - RURAL SERVICES DIVISION - ANIMAL RESCUE AND SHELTER GRANTS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Rural Services Division, to be payable from the Animal Rescue and Shelter Trust Fund, for grants to a county or municipality based only on the infrastructure needs for animal rescues or animal shelters for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) ANIMAL RESCUE AND SHELTER GRANTS	<u>\$50,000</u>

SECTION 22. APPROPRIATION - RURAL SERVICES DIVISION - COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Rural Services Division - Community Assistance Grant Program, to be payable from the paying account as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for community assistance grants for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM	<u>\$10,000,000</u>

SECTION 23. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. REALLOCATION OF RESOURCES - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. Upon determination by the Secretary of the Department of Commerce that a reallocation of resources for purposes of reorganization or consolidation of administrative functions within or between divisions is necessary for efficient and effective operations of the department, the Secretary, with approval of the Governor and prior approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, shall have the authority to request from the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, a transfer of positions, appropriations, programs, and funds between divisions or other budgetary units of the department. The transfers of

1 positions, programs, or activities shall be used for those purposes for which  
2 the appropriations were approved by the General Assembly. Upon approval by  
3 the Governor, the Secretary of the Department of Commerce shall request to  
4 the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, a transfer of positions, programs,  
5 funds, appropriations, and/or line-item appropriations within or between  
6 existing and newly created divisions, offices, sections and/or units. The  
7 Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall then initiate the necessary transfer  
8 documents to reflect transfers upon the fiscal records of the State  
9 Treasurer, the State Auditor, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, and  
10 Divisions of the Commerce Department. Provided, however, that the Secretary  
11 shall be limited to submitting no more than two (2) individual transaction  
12 transfer requests during any fiscal year.

13 Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of  
14 appropriation and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year  
15 is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by  
16 delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for a state agency and  
17 the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by  
18 amendment to the Revenue Stabilization law. Further, the General Assembly  
19 has determined that the Department of Commerce may operate more efficiently  
20 if some flexibility is provided to the Department of Commerce under the  
21 Reallocation of Resources provisions herein. Therefore, it is both necessary  
22 and appropriate that the General Assembly maintain oversight by requiring  
23 prior approval of the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee as  
24 provided by this section. The requirement of approval by the Legislative  
25 Council or Joint Budget Committee is not a severable part of this section.  
26 If the requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget  
27 Committee is ruled unconstitutional by a court jurisdiction, this entire  
28 section is void.

29 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,  
30 ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

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32 SECTION 24. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
33 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. FUND  
34 TRANSFER PROVISION. As requested from time to time by the Director of the  
35 Arkansas Economic Development Commission, the Chief Fiscal Officer may  
36 transfer on his books and those of the State Treasurer and the Auditor of the

1 State, the sum not to exceed five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) from  
2 the Arkansas Economic Development Commission Fund Account to the Minority and  
3 Women-Owned Business Loan Mobilization Revolving Fund, to provide funds for  
4 the Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Loan Mobilization  
5 appropriation herein.

6 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~  
7 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

8  
9 SECTION 25. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
10 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. CARRY  
11 FORWARD – MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS LOAN MOBILIZATION REVOLVING FUND.  
12 Any unexpended balance of funds for the Minority and Women-Owned Business  
13 Enterprise Loan Mobilization appropriation which remain at the close of each  
14 state fiscal year shall be carried forward to the next state fiscal year to  
15 be used for the same intent and purposes as set forth in law.

16 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~  
17 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

18  
19 SECTION 26. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
20 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER  
21 PROVISION – STATE OPERATIONS. After receiving approval from the Chief Fiscal  
22 Officer of the State and prior review by the Legislative Council or Joint  
23 Budget Committee, the Director of the Arkansas Economic Development  
24 Commission is authorized to transfer appropriation from any line item  
25 appropriation authorized in the State Operations Section of this Act to any  
26 other line item authorized in the State Operations Section of this Act.

27 Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of  
28 appropriation and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year  
29 is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by  
30 delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for a state agency and  
31 the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by  
32 amendment to the Revenue Stabilization Law. Further, the General Assembly has  
33 determined that the Arkansas Economic Development Commission may operate more  
34 efficiently if some flexibility is provided to the Arkansas Economic  
35 Development Commission authorizing broad powers under this Section.  
36 Therefore, it is both necessary and appropriate that the General Assembly

1 maintain oversight by requiring prior review of the Legislative Council or  
2 Joint Budget Committee as provided by this section. The requirement of review  
3 by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is not a severable part  
4 of this section. If the requirement of review by the Legislative Council or  
5 Joint Budget Committee is ruled unconstitutional by a court of competent  
6 jurisdiction, this entire section is void.

7 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,  
8 ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

9  
10 SECTION 27. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
11 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. FOREIGN  
12 OFFICE OPERATIONS. The Arkansas Economic Development Commission is hereby  
13 authorized to enter into contractual arrangements with private and/or public  
14 companies, corporations, individuals or organizations for the purpose of  
15 operating foreign offices which shall only (i) provide export trade  
16 assistance to Arkansas-based businesses, (ii) facilitate the repatriation to  
17 Arkansas manufacturing businesses operating overseas, and (iii) encourage  
18 direct investment in Arkansas of foreign companies that are not state-owned  
19 or controlled. Arkansas Code 15-4-210 shall not be deemed restrictive in its  
20 language so as to preclude the use of standard Professional Services  
21 Contracts for the operation of the foreign offices and/or payment of such  
22 contracts from the special line items as established by legislative  
23 appropriation for the operation of said foreign offices.

24 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~  
25 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

26  
27 SECTION 28. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
28 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. RURAL  
29 DEVELOPMENT. From the funds appropriated for Community Development Grants  
30 within the Community Development Program in this Act for Community Assistance  
31 (CDBG) - Federal, the Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) shall  
32 allocate at least \$500,000 per fiscal year to the Rural Development Set-Aside  
33 from the annual Community Development Block Grant, as defined in AEDC's  
34 Consolidated Plan filed with the federal Department of Housing and Urban  
35 Development. Funds allocated to the Rural Development Set-Aside are to be  
36 used exclusively for grants to rural communities as defined in the

1 Consolidated Plan.

2 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~  
3 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

4  
5 SECTION 29. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
6 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. GRANT  
7 REVIEW. The Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) shall review all  
8 applications for grant funds and shall certify those applications eligible  
9 for grant funds under AEDC and federal guidelines. The Rural Services  
10 Division of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission alone shall  
11 recommend which grant applications will be funded, and AEDC shall disburse  
12 grant funds from the Rural Development Set-Aside to those applicants  
13 receiving final approval by the Rural Services Division of the Arkansas  
14 Economic Development Commission. AEDC and the Rural Services Division of the  
15 Arkansas Economic Development Commission shall promulgate rules and  
16 regulations governing the application for and disbursement of grant funds  
17 from the Rural Development Set-Aside, and an annual report of the disposition  
18 of these grant funds shall be made to the Legislative Joint Auditing  
19 Committee.

20 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~  
21 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

22  
23 SECTION 30. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
24 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER  
25 PROVISION - COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE (CDBG) - FEDERAL. After receiving approval  
26 from the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and prior approval by the  
27 Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, the Director of the Arkansas  
28 Economic Development Commission is authorized to transfer appropriation from  
29 any line item appropriation authorized in the Community Assistance (CDBG) -  
30 Federal Section of this Act to any other line item authorized in the  
31 Community Assistance (CDBG) - Federal Section of this Act.

32 Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of  
33 appropriation and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year  
34 is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by  
35 delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for a state agency and  
36 the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by

1 amendment to the Revenue Stabilization law. Further, the General Assembly  
2 has determined that the Arkansas Economic Development Commission may operate  
3 more efficiently if some flexibility is provided to the Arkansas Economic  
4 Development Commission authorizing broad powers under this Section.  
5 Therefore, it is both necessary and appropriate that the General Assembly  
6 maintain oversight by requiring prior approval of the Legislative Council or  
7 Joint Budget Committee as provided by this section. The requirement of  
8 approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is not a  
9 severable part of this section. If the requirement of approval by the  
10 Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is ruled unconstitutional by a  
11 court of competent jurisdiction, this entire section is void.

12 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~  
13 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

14

15 SECTION 31. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
16 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.  
17 FLEXIBILITY RESTRICTIONS. The transfer flexibility provided to the Arkansas  
18 Economic Development Commission within this Act relating to the appropriation  
19 in the Community Assistance (CDBG) - Federal Section shall be used only when  
20 necessary to carry out the Community Development Block Grant Program and  
21 shall require approval by the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget  
22 Committee.

23 Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of  
24 appropriation and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year  
25 is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by  
26 delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for a state agency and  
27 the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by  
28 amendment to the Revenue Stabilization law. Further, the General Assembly  
29 has determined that the Arkansas Economic Development Commission may operate  
30 more efficiently if some flexibility is provided to the Arkansas Economic  
31 Development Commission authorizing broad powers under this Section.  
32 Therefore, it is both necessary and appropriate that the General Assembly  
33 maintain oversight by requiring prior approval of the Legislative Council or  
34 Joint Budget Committee as provided by this section. The requirement of  
35 approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is not a  
36 severable part of this section. If the requirement of approval by the

1 Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is ruled unconstitutional by a  
2 court of competent jurisdiction, this entire section is void.

3 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~  
4 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

5  
6 SECTION 32. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
7 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

8 ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS AUTHORIZED. The Arkansas Industrial and Economic  
9 Development Foundation is hereby authorized to make additional payments to  
10 the Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, from private  
11 funding sources, and upon prior approval from the Arkansas Economic  
12 Development Commission, the Arkansas Industrial and Economic Development  
13 Foundation, and the Governor. Such additional payments to the Director of  
14 the Arkansas Economic Development Commission shall not be considered salary  
15 and shall not be deemed or construed to exceed the maximum salaries  
16 established for unclassified employees by the General Assembly. Nothing in  
17 this section may be construed to reduce or eliminate the authority granted  
18 elsewhere in the Arkansas statute for the payment of allowances or bonuses to  
19 unclassified employees.

20 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~  
21 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

22  
23 SECTION 33. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
24 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

25 CARRY FORWARD - INDUSTRY TRAINING PROGRAM. Any unexpended balance of funds  
26 for the Industry Training Program in the Arkansas Economic Development  
27 Commission Fund Account which remain at the close of each state fiscal year  
28 shall be carried forward to the next state fiscal year to be used for the  
29 same intent and purposes as set forth in law.

30 Any carry forward of unexpended balance of funding as authorized herein,  
31 may be carried forward under the following conditions:

32 (1) Prior to June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027 the Agency shall by written statement set  
33 forth its reason(s) for the need to carry forward said funding to the  
34 Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget;

35 (2) The Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget shall  
36 report to the Arkansas Legislative Council all amounts carried forward by the

1 September Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee meeting  
2 which report shall include the name of the Agency, Board, Commission or  
3 Institution and the amount of the funding carried forward, the program name  
4 or line item, the funding source of that appropriation and a copy of the  
5 written request set forth in (1) above;

6 (3) Each Agency, Board, Commission or Institution shall provide a written  
7 report to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee  
8 containing all information set forth in item (2) above, along with a written  
9 statement as to the current status of the project, contract, purpose etc. for  
10 which the carry forward was originally requested no later than thirty (30)  
11 days prior to the time the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution presents  
12 its budget request to the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget  
13 Committee; and

14 (4) Thereupon, the Department of Finance and Administration shall include  
15 all information obtained in item (3) above in the budget manuals and/or a  
16 statement of non-compliance by the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution.

17 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~  
18 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

19  
20 SECTION 34. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
21 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. CARRY  
22 FORWARD – TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT. The Division of Science and Technology of  
23 the Arkansas Economic Development Commission is authorized to carry forward  
24 an amount of up to \$150,000 of any obligated but unexpended funds in the  
25 Technology Development line item in the Division of Science and Technology -  
26 State Operations Section of this Act for basic or applied research grants  
27 which remains at the end of the fiscal year ~~2026~~ 2027 to be used for the same  
28 purpose.

29 Any carry forward of unexpended balance of funding as authorized herein, may  
30 be carried forward under the following conditions:

31 (1) Prior to June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027 the Agency shall by written statement set  
32 forth its reason(s) for the need to carry forward said funding to the  
33 Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget;

34 (2) The Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget shall  
35 report to the Arkansas Legislative Council all amounts carried forward by the  
36 September Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee meeting

1 which report shall include the name of the Agency, Board, Commission or  
2 Institution and the amount of the funding carried forward, the program name  
3 or line item, the funding source of that appropriation and a copy of the  
4 written request set forth in (1) above;

5 (3) Each Agency, Board, Commission or Institution shall provide a written  
6 report to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee  
7 containing all information set forth in item (2) above, along with a written  
8 statement as to the current status of the project, contract, purpose etc. for  
9 which the carry forward was originally requested no later than thirty (30)  
10 days prior to the time the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution presents  
11 its budget request to the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget  
12 Committee; and

13 (4) Thereupon, the Department of Finance and Administration shall include  
14 all information obtained in item (3) above in the budget manuals and/or a  
15 statement of non-compliance by the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution.

16 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,  
17 ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

18  
19 SECTION 35. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
20 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.  
21 APPROPRIATION AND FUND TRANSFERS. After receiving approval from the Chief  
22 Fiscal Officer of the State, the Director of the Arkansas Economic  
23 Development Commission is authorized to transfer appropriation and funds from  
24 the Division of Science and Technology State Operations - Arkansas  
25 Acceleration Fund Programs line item within the Arkansas Economic Development  
26 Commission Fund Account to the Arkansas Acceleration Fund. The total of all  
27 transfers shall not exceed \$3,500,000.

28 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~  
29 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

30  
31 SECTION 36. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
32 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.  
33 PROMOTIONAL ITEMS. The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall establish,  
34 upon request from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, a special  
35 appropriation line item to be used in the acquisition of promotional items.  
36 When the Arkansas Economic Development Commission wishes to transfer from its

1 operating expenses to promotional items, the request shall be forwarded to  
2 the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State for processing after prior approval by  
3 the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee.

4 Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of  
5 appropriation and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year  
6 is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by  
7 delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for a state agency and  
8 the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by  
9 amendment to the Revenue Stabilization Law. Further, the General Assembly  
10 has determined that the Arkansas Economic Development Commission may operate  
11 more efficiently if some flexibility is provided to the Arkansas Economic  
12 Development Commission authorizing broad powers under this Section.  
13 Therefore, it is both necessary and appropriate that the General Assembly  
14 maintain oversight by requiring prior approval of the Legislative Council or  
15 Joint Budget Committee as provided by this Section. The requirement of  
16 approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is not a  
17 severable part of this Section. If the requirement of approval by the  
18 Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is ruled unconstitutional by a  
19 court of competent jurisdiction, this entire section is void.

20 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~  
21 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

22  
23 SECTION 37. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
24 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. GRANT  
25 AWARD CRITERIA. The Rural Services Division of the Arkansas Economic  
26 Development Commission shall promulgate rules establishing the criteria to be  
27 utilized in determining to whom grants will be made under this Act. Subject  
28 to the approval of the Governor, and approval by the Arkansas Legislative  
29 Council or the Joint Budget Committee, the Rural Services Division of the  
30 Arkansas Economic Development Commission shall distribute the grants.

31 Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of  
32 appropriation and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year  
33 is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by  
34 delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for a state agency and  
35 the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by  
36 amendment to the Revenue Stabilization law. Further, the General Assembly

1 has determined that the Rural Services Division of the Arkansas Economic  
2 Development Commission may operate more efficiently if some flexibility is  
3 provided to the Rural Services Division of the Arkansas Economic Development  
4 Commission authorizing broad powers under this Section. Therefore, it is  
5 both necessary and appropriate that the General Assembly maintain oversight  
6 by requiring prior approval of the Legislative Council or Joint Budget  
7 Committee as provided by this section. The requirement of approval by the  
8 Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is not a severable part of this  
9 section. If the requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint  
10 Budget Committee is ruled unconstitutional by a court of competent  
11 jurisdiction, this entire section is void.

12 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~  
13 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

14

15 SECTION 38. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
16 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER  
17 OF FUNDS. In the event that revenue is available for transfer to and in  
18 support of the Arkansas Acceleration Fund Act, the Executive Director of the  
19 Arkansas Economic Development Commission shall certify to the Chief Fiscal  
20 Officer of the State the amount needed for transfer from the Arkansas  
21 Economic Development Commission Fund Account to the Arkansas Acceleration  
22 Fund. Upon the approval of the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, the amount  
23 certified shall be transferred. The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall  
24 initiate the necessary transfer documents to reflect all such transfers upon  
25 the fiscal records of the State Auditor, the State Treasurer and the Chief  
26 Fiscal Officer of the State.

27 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~  
28 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

29

30 SECTION 39. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
31 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. SHARED  
32 SERVICES.

33 (a)(1) The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State may create a Shared  
34 Services paying account on his or her books and on the books of the Treasurer  
35 of State and the Auditor of State for the payment of personal services and  
36 operating expenses in the Shared Services Paying Account Appropriation by the

1 Department of Commerce.

2 (2) The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall direct the  
3 transfer of funds and appropriations to the Shared Services Paying Account  
4 appropriation section of this act on the books of the Treasurer of State, the  
5 Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

6 (3) The transfer authority provided to the department in  
7 subdivision (a)(2) of this section may be used to make transfers only within  
8 the department's appropriation act or between other appropriation acts  
9 authorized for the department.

10 (4) The provisions of this section shall be in effect from the  
11 date of passage through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

12

13 SECTION 40. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
14 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. CARRY  
15 FORWARD - MILITARY AFFAIRS GRANT PROGRAM. Any unexpended balance of funds  
16 allocated for the Military Affairs Grant Program in the Arkansas Economic  
17 Development Commission Fund Account which remain at the close of each state  
18 fiscal year shall be carried forward to the next state fiscal year to be used  
19 for the same intent and purposes as set forth in law. Any carry forward of  
20 unexpended balance of funding as authorized herein, may be carried forward  
21 under the following conditions:

22 (1) Prior to June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027 the Agency shall by written statement set  
23 forth its reason(s) for the need to carry forward said funding to the  
24 Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget;

25 (2) The Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget shall  
26 report to the Arkansas Legislative Council all amounts carried forward by the  
27 September Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee meeting  
28 which report shall include the name of the Agency, Board, Commission or  
29 Institution and the amount of the funding carried forward, the program name  
30 or line item, the funding source of that appropriation and a copy of the  
31 written request set forth in (1) above;

32 (3) Each Agency, Board, Commission or Institution shall provide a written  
33 report to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee  
34 containing all information set forth in item (2) above, along with a written  
35 statement as to the current status of the project, contract, purpose etc. for  
36 which the carry forward was originally requested no later than thirty (30)

1 days prior to the time the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution presents  
2 its budget request to the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget  
3 Committee; and

4 (4) Thereupon, the Department of Finance and Administration shall include  
5 all information obtained in item (3) above in the budget manuals and/or a  
6 statement of non-compliance by the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution.

7 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~  
8 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

9  
10 SECTION 41. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS  
11 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. CARRY  
12 FORWARD - ARKANSAS ACCELERATION FUND PROGRAM. Any unexpended balance of  
13 funds for the Arkansas Acceleration Fund Program line item in the Division of  
14 Science and Technology - State Operations Section of this Act which remain at  
15 the close of each state fiscal year shall be carried forward to the next  
16 state fiscal year to be used for the same intent and purposes as set forth in  
17 law.

18 Any carry forward of unexpended balance of funding as authorized herein, may  
19 be carried forward under the following conditions:

20 (1) Prior to June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027 the Agency shall by written statement set  
21 forth its reasons(s) for the need to carry forward said funding to the  
22 Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget;

23 (2) The Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget shall  
24 report to the Arkansas Legislative Council all amounts carried forward by the  
25 September Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee meeting,  
26 which report shall include the name of the Agency, Board, Commission or  
27 Institution and the amount of the funding carried forward, the program name  
28 or line item, the funding source of the appropriation and a copy of the  
29 written request set forth in (1) above;

30 (3) Each Agency, Board, Commission or Institution shall provide a written  
31 report to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee  
32 containing all information set forth in item (2) above, along with a written  
33 statement as to the current status of the project, contract, purpose, etc.

34 for which the carry forward was originally requested no later than thirty  
35 (30) days prior to the time the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution  
36 presents its budget request to the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget

1 Committee; and

2 (4) Thereupon, the Department of Finance and Administration shall include all  
3 information obtained in item (3) above in the budget manuals and/or a  
4 statement of non-compliance by the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution.

5 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,  
6 ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

7  
8 SECTION 42. 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 controllaws 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.

17  
18 SECTION 43. 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.

26  
27 SECTION 44. 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, 2026 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, 2026 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, 2026.

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**APPROVED: 4/29/26**