

1 State of Arkansas As Engrossed: S4/15/26 S4/27/26

2 95th General Assembly

A Bill

3 Fiscal Session, 2026

SENATE BILL 31

4

5 By: Joint Budget Committee

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For An Act To Be Entitled

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

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Subtitle

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AN ACT FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF
17 THE COURTS APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2026-
18 2027 FISCAL 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 - OPERATIONS. There is hereby established
24 for the Administrative Office of the Courts for the 2026-2027 fiscal year,
25 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
				2026-2027
(1)	Q004N	AOC DIRECTOR	1	GRADE EXE04
(2)	Q008N	AOC DEPUTY DIRECTOR	1	GRADE EXE03
(3)	Q009C	AOC MANAGING ATTORNEY	2	GRADE SPC10
(4)	Q019C	AOC SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY	3	GRADE SPC06
(5)	Q058C	AOC JUDICIAL BRANCH EDUCATION DIR	1	GRADE SGS12
(6)	Q014C	AOC SPECIALTY COURT COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS12



1	(7)	Q050C	AOC COURT INTERPRETER SERVICES DIR	1	GRADE SGS11
2	(8)	Q071C	AOC FISCAL OFFICER	1	GRADE SGS11
3	(9)	Q069C	AOC CASA COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS10
4	(10)	G309C	AOC GRANTS MANAGER	1	GRADE SGS10
5	(11)	Q082C	AOC INTERPRETER SC:L	1	GRADE SGS10
6	(12)	Q258C	AOC JUVENILE JUSTICE SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS10
7	(13)	Q089C	AOC OFFICE MANAGER	1	GRADE SGS10
8	(14)	Q104C	AOC PERSONNEL MANAGER	2	GRADE SGS10
9	(15)	Q057C	AOC PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER	1	GRADE SGS10
10	(16)	Q081C	AOC SPANISH INTERPRETER	4	GRADE SGS10
11	(17)	Q070C	AOC REGIONAL FUNCTIONAL SPECIALIST	6	GRADE SGS09
12	(18)	Q289C	AOC DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS08
13	(19)	Q113C	AOC EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	5	GRADE SGS08
14	(20)	Q102C	AOC JUDICIAL EDUCATION SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS08
15	(21)	A142C	AOC PAYROLL SERVICES SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS08
16	(22)	Q105C	AOC RESEARCH ANALYST	1	GRADE SGS08
17	(23)	Q260C	AOC COURT APPLICATIONS BUSINESS DIR	1	GRADE IST12
18	(24)	D143C	AOC JUDICIAL CHIEF IT SECURITY ARCH	1	GRADE IST11
19	(25)	Q088C	AOC COMPUTER SUPPORT MANAGER	1	GRADE IST09
20	(26)	Q219C	AOC DATA QUALITY MANAGER	2	GRADE IST09
21	(27)	Q048C	AOC SOFTWARE ENGINEER	2	GRADE IST06
22	(28)	Q114C	AOC COMPUTER SUPPORT ANALYST II	<u>2</u>	GRADE IST05
23			MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	47	

24

25 SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP - OPERATIONS. There is hereby authorized, for
 26 the Administrative Office of the Courts - Operations for the 2026-2027 fiscal
 27 year, the following maximum number of part-time or temporary employees, to be
 28 known as "Extra Help", payable from funds appropriated herein for such
 29 purposes: two (2) temporary or part-time employees, when needed, at rates of
 30 pay not to exceed those provided in the Uniform Classification and
 31 Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act for the appropriate
 32 classification.

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34 SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated,
 35 to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the State
 36 Central Services Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the

1 Administrative Office of the Courts - Operations for the fiscal year ending
 2 June 30, 2027, the following:

3

4 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
5 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
6 (01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$4,035,698
7 (02) EXTRA HELP	5,000
8 (03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	1,297,099
9 (04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
10 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	619,627
11 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	35,000
12 (C) PROF. FEES	45,000
13 (D) CAP. OUTLAY	164,500
14 (E) DATA PROC.	0
15 (05) JUDICIAL EDUCATION	400,000
16 (06) COURT INTERPRETER FEES	<u>614,100</u>
17 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$7,216,024</u></u>

18 SECTION 4. REGULAR SALARIES - DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMISSION. There is
 19 hereby established for the Administrative Office of the Courts - Dispute
 20 Resolution Commission for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum
 21 number of regular employees.

22

23	24	25	26	Maximum Annual
Item	Class	No. of	Fiscal Year	Salary Rate
<u>No.</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Employees</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
27 (1)	Q020C	AOC ADR PROGRAM COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS12
28 (2)	Q132C	AOC ADR TRAINING COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS08
29 (3)	Q113C	AOC EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	<u>1</u>	GRADE SGS08
30		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	3	

31

32 SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMISSION - STATE.

33 There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to
 34 be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for personal services,
 35 operating expenses and grants of the Administrative Office of the Courts -
 36 Dispute Resolution Commission - State for the fiscal year ending June 30,

1 2027, the following:

2

3 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
4 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
5 (01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$232,681
6 (02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	77,206
7 (03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
8 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	35,514
9 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	15,000
10 (C) PROF. FEES	31,604
11 (D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
12 (E) DATA PROC.	0
13 (04) ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION GRANTS	<u>25,000</u>
14 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$417,005</u></u>

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16 SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMISSION -
 17 CASH. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the
 18 Courts, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as
 19 determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses,
 20 fees and services of the Administrative Office of the Courts - Alternative
 21 Dispute Resolution Commission - Cash for the fiscal year ending June 30,
 22 2027, the following:

23

24 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
25 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
26 (01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
27 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$125,000
28 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	30,000
29 (C) PROF. FEES	120,000
30 (D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
31 (E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
32 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$275,000</u></u>

33

34 SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - HEARING & VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS - STATE. There
 35 is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be
 36 payable from the State Central Services Fund, for operating expenses for

1 reasonable accommodations for persons with hearing and visual impairments to
 2 act as a venire person or juror for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the
 3 following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) AUXILIARY AIDS-HEARING & VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS	<u>\$10,000</u>

9
 10 SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - DISTRICT JUDGES CONTINUING EDUCATION -
 11 STATE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the
 12 Courts, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for operating
 13 expenses for a continuing education program for District Judges for the
 14 fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$60,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	20,000
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$80,000</u>

25
 26 SECTION 9. REGULAR SALARIES - DIVISION OF DEPENDENCY-NEGLECT
 27 REPRESENTATION. There is hereby established for the Administrative Office of
 28 the Courts - Division of Dependency-Neglect Representation for the 2026-2027
 29 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item	Class	Maximum	Maximum Annual
<u>No.</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Salary Rate</u>
<u>No.</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>
<u>No.</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(1)	Q019C	AOC SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY	2 GRADE SPC06
(2)	Q029C	AOC AD LITEM ATTORNEY	34 GRADE SPC05

1	(3) Q113C AOC EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	1	GRADE SGS08
2	(4) Q191C AOC DATA ANALYST	<u>1</u>	GRADE IST06
3	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	38	

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5 SECTION 10. APPROPRIATION - DIVISION OF DEPENDENCY-NEGLECT
 6 REPRESENTATION. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office
 7 of the Courts, to be transferred from the State Administration of Justice
 8 Fund, and to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for personal
 9 services and operating expenses of the Administrative Office of the Courts -
 10 Division of Dependency-Neglect Representation for the fiscal year ending June
 11 30, 2027, the following:

12

13	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
14	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
15	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$3,447,422
16	(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	1,092,833
17	(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
18	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	566,514
19	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	10,000
20	(C) PROF. FEES	1,405,816
21	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
22	(E) DATA PROC.	0
23	(04) LOCAL CASA PROGRAM GRANTS	1,750,000
24	(05) ATTORNEY AD LITEM FEES/REIMBURSEMENTS	<u>396,750</u>
25	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$8,669,335</u>

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27 SECTION 11. REGULAR SALARIES - COURT AUTOMATION. There is hereby
 28 established for the Administrative Office of the Courts - Court Automation
 29 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular
 30 employees.

31

32		Maximum Annual
33		Salary Rate
34	Item Class	Fiscal Year
35	<u>No. Code Title</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
36		
	(1) Q012N AOC CIS DIVISION DIRECTOR	1 GRADE IST15

1	(2)	Q015N	AOC APPLICATIONS DIRECTOR	1	GRADE IST12
2	(3)	Q261C	AOC IT PROJECT MGMT OFFICE DIRECTOR	1	GRADE IST12
3	(4)	Q062N	AOC SYSTEMS DIRECTOR	1	GRADE IST12
4	(5)	N187N	CIS DIVISION ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	1	GRADE IST12
5	(6)	Q005C	AOC DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR	2	GRADE IST11
6	(7)	Q259C	AOC JUDICIAL CHIEF IT SEC OFFICER	1	GRADE IST11
7	(8)	Q140C	AOC DEVELOPMENT TEAM MANAGER	1	GRADE IST10
8	(9)	Q028C	AOC TECHNICAL TEAM MANAGER	1	GRADE IST10
9	(10)	Q136C	AOC INFORMATION SYSTEMS ADMIN	2	GRADE IST09
10	(11)	Q016C	AOC PROGRAM MANAGER	1	GRADE IST09
11	(12)	Q190C	AOC PROJECT MANAGER II	3	GRADE IST07
12	(13)	Q138C	AOC QUALITY ASSURANCE LEAD	1	GRADE IST07
13	(14)	Q135C	AOC BUSINESS ANALYST	4	GRADE IST06
14	(15)	Q191C	AOC DATA ANALYST	1	GRADE IST06
15	(16)	Q139C	AOC IT SECURITY ANALYST	1	GRADE IST06
16	(17)	Q189C	AOC PROJECT ANALYST	2	GRADE IST06
17	(18)	Q137C	AOC QUALITY ASSURANCE COORDINATOR	1	GRADE IST06
18	(19)	Q300C	AOC QUALITY ENGINEER	1	GRADE IST06
19	(20)	Q142C	AOC SOFTWARE ENGINEER	4	GRADE IST06
20	(21)	Q049C	AOC TECHNICAL ANALYST	3	GRADE IST06
21	(22)	Q101C	AOC WEBSITE DEVELOPER	1	GRADE IST06
22	(23)	Q068C	AOC APPLICATIONS SPECIALIST	<u>8</u>	GRADE IST05
23			MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	43	

24

25 SECTION 12. APPROPRIATION - COURT AUTOMATION. There is hereby
 26 appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from
 27 the Judicial Fine Collection Enhancement Fund, for personal services,
 28 operating expenses and other costs associated with the state court automation
 29 system by the Administrative Office of the Courts - Court Automation for the
 30 fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

31

32	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
33	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
34	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$3,748,354
35	(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	1,201,501
36	(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	

1	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	2,450,000
2	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	25,000
3	(C) PROF. FEES	50,000
4	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	801,590
5	(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
6	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$8,276,445</u></u>

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8 SECTION 13. APPROPRIATION - COURT AUTOMATION - CASH. There is hereby
 9 appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from
 10 the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief
 11 Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses and other costs
 12 associated with the state court automation system of the Administrative
 13 Office of the Courts - Court Automation - Cash for the fiscal year ending
 14 June 30, 2027, the following:

15

16	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
17	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
18	(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
19	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$150,000
20	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
21	(C) PROF. FEES	0
22	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
23	(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
24	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$150,000</u></u>

25

26 SECTION 14. APPROPRIATION - DISTRICT JUDGES & CLERKS CONTINUING
 27 EDUCATION. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the
 28 Courts, to be payable from the District Court Judge and District Court Clerk
 29 Education Fund, for operating expenses for the purpose of providing
 30 continuing education to District Court Judges and District Courts Clerks by
 31 the Administrative Office of the Courts - District Court Judges & Clerks
 32 Continuing Education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

33

34	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
35	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
36	(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	

1	(04) DEPENDENCY NEGLECT GRANTS	<u>140,000</u>
2	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$765,917</u></u>

3

4 SECTION 17. REGULAR SALARIES - ACCESS & VISITATION MEDIATION - FEDERAL.

5 There is hereby established for the Administrative Office of the Courts -
 6 Access & Visitation Mediation - Federal for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the
 7 following maximum number of regular employees.

8

9		Maximum	Annual
10		Maximum	Salary Rate
11	Item Class	No. of	Fiscal Year
12	<u>No. Code Title</u>	<u>Employees</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
13	(1) Q121C AOC DIRECTOR ACCESS & VISITATION	<u>1</u>	GRADE SGS07
14	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	1	

15

16 SECTION 18. APPROPRIATION - ACCESS & VISITATION MEDIATION - FEDERAL.

17 There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to
 18 be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer
 19 of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of the
 20 Administrative Office of the Courts - Access & Visitation Mediation - Federal
 21 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

22

23	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
24	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
25	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$44,749
26	(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	18,333
27	(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
28	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	10,000
29	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
30	(C) PROF. FEES	85,000
31	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
32	(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
33	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$158,082</u></u>

34

35 SECTION 19. REGULAR SALARIES - COURT SECURITY GRANTS. There is hereby
 36 established for the Administrative Office of the Courts - Court Security

1 Grants for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular
 2 employees.

3	4	5	6	7	8	9
					Maximum Annual	
					Salary Rate	
Item	Class			No. of	Fiscal Year	
No.	Code	Title		Employees	2026-2027	
(1)	Q133C	AOC DIR OF SEC & EMER PREPAREDNESS		<u>1</u>	GRADE LES09	
		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES		1		

10
 11 SECTION 20. APPROPRIATION - COURT SECURITY GRANTS. There is hereby
 12 appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from
 13 the State Central Services Fund, for personal services, operating expenses
 14 and security grants of the Administrative Office of the Courts - Court
 15 Security Grants for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
ITEM	NO.									FISCAL YEAR	
										2026-2027	
(01)		REGULAR SALARIES								\$101,563	
(02)		PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING								31,249	
(03)		MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION									
	(A)	OPER. EXPENSE								25,000	
	(B)	CONF. & TRAVEL								3,000	
	(C)	PROF. FEES								5,000	
	(D)	CAP. OUTLAY								0	
	(E)	DATA PROC.								0	
(04)		SECURITY GRANTS								<u>500,000</u>	
		TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED								<u><u>\$665,812</u></u>	

29
 30 SECTION 21. APPROPRIATION - COUNTY JUROR REIMBURSEMENT. There is
 31 hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be
 32 payable from the County Juror Reimbursement Fund, for reimbursing Arkansas
 33 counties for the costs of jurors by the Administrative Office of the Courts -
 34 County Juror Reimbursement for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the
 35 following:

36

1	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
2	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
3	(01) COUNTY JUROR REIMBURSEMENTS	<u>\$850,000</u>

4

5 SECTION 22. APPROPRIATION - COURT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM. There is hereby

6 appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from

7 the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief

8 Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses of the Administrative

9 Office of the Courts - Court Management Program for the fiscal year ending

10 June 30, 2027, the following:

12	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
13	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
14	(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
15	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$25,000
16	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
17	(C) PROF. FEES	0
18	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
19	(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
20	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$25,000</u>

21

22 SECTION 23. APPROPRIATION - USDOT CASE MANAGEMENT. There is hereby

23 appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from

24 the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for

25 operating expenses for US Department of Transportation Case Management

26 Program of the Administrative Office of the Courts - USDOT Case Management

27 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

29	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
30	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
31	(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
32	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$484,000
33	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
34	(C) PROF. FEES	0
35	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
36	(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>

1 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED \$484,000

2

3 SECTION 24. APPROPRIATION - COURT INTERPRETERS. There is hereby
 4 appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from
 5 the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief
 6 Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses associated with fees from
 7 Court Interpreter candidates and interpreter fees ordered by judges for the
 8 fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

9

10 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
11 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
12 (01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
13 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$10,000
14 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
15 (C) PROF. FEES	15,000
16 (D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
17 (E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
18 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$25,000</u>

19

20 SECTION 25. APPROPRIATION - SPECIALTY COURT PROGRAM. There is hereby
 21 appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from
 22 the Specialty Court Program Fund, for costs associated with the Specialty
 23 Court Program and providing assistance and support to the Specialty Court
 24 Advisory Committee for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

25

26 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
27 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
28 (01) SPECIALTY COURT PROGRAM	<u>\$300,000</u>

29

30 SECTION 26. APPROPRIATION - CASA PROGRAM. There is hereby
 31 appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from
 32 the Arkansas Court Appointed Special Advocates Program Fund, for operating
 33 expenses and grants to local CASA programs statewide of the Administrative
 34 Office of the Courts - CASA Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027,
 35 the following:

36

1	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
2	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
3	(01) CASA PROGRAM EXPENSES	<u>\$10,000</u>

4

5 SECTION 27. APPROPRIATION - DRUG COURT ENHANCEMENT. There is hereby
 6 appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from
 7 the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for
 8 operating expenses of the Administrative Office of the Courts - Drug Court
 9 Enhancement for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

10

11	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
12	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
13	(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
14	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$2,021,851
15	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	964,359
16	(C) PROF. FEES	3,677,807
17	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
18	(E) DATA PROC.	0
19	(02) GRANTS AND AID	2,498,223
20	(03) ADULT TREATMENT COURT PROGRAM	<u>28,640</u>
21	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$9,190,880</u>

22

23 SECTION 28. APPROPRIATION - AOC STATEWIDE SOFTWARE LICENSE. There is
 24 hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be
 25 payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by
 26 the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for costs associated with software
 27 licensing for district and circuit courts of the Administrative Office of the
 28 Courts - Statewide Software License for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027,
 29 the following:

30

31	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
32	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
33	(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
34	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$30,000
35	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
36	(C) PROF. FEES	0

1	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
2	(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
3	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$30,000</u></u>

4

5 SECTION 29. APPROPRIATION - JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM. There is hereby
6 appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from
7 the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for
8 operating expenses associated with Juvenile Justice Racial and Ethnic
9 Disparities Reform Initiative of the Administrative Office of the Courts -
10 Juvenile Justice Reform for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the
11 following:

12

13	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
14	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
15	(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
16	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$353,774
17	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	13,914
18	(C) PROF. FEES	632,312
19	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
20	(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
21	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$1,000,000</u></u>

22

23 SECTION 30. APPROPRIATION - ACCOUNTABILITY COURT FUND. There is hereby
24 appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from
25 the Accountability Court Fund, for operating expenses and grants and aid of
26 the Administrative Office of the Courts - Accountability Court Fund for the
27 fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

28

29	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
30	<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
31	(01) ACCOUNTABILITY COURT EXPENSES	<u><u>\$400,000</u></u>

32

33 SECTION 31. APPROPRIATION - ADULT DRUG COURT. There is hereby
34 appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from
35 the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief
36 Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses and grants and aid of the

1 Administrative Office of the Courts - Adult Drug Court Program for the fiscal
 2 year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

3

4 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
5 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
6 (01) ADULT DRUG COURT EXPENSES	<u>\$1,000,000</u>

7

8 SECTION 32. APPROPRIATION - SPECIALTY COURTS. There is hereby
 9 appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from
 10 the State Central Services Fund, for operating expenses and grants for
 11 specialty courts of the Administrative Office of the Courts for the fiscal
 12 year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

13

14 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
15 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
16 (01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
17 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$0
18 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
19 (C) PROF. FEES	2,800,000
20 (D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
21 (E) DATA PROC.	0
22 (02) GRANTS AND AID	<u>1,700,000</u>
23 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$4,500,000</u>

24

25 SECTION 33. APPROPRIATION - COURTHOUSE LACTATION FACILITIES. There is
 26 hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be
 27 payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by
 28 the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses and grants for
 29 the construction, maintenance, renovation, equipping or purchase of lactation
 30 facilities for Arkansas Courthouses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027,
 31 the following:

32

33 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
34 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
35 (01) COURTHOUSE LACTATION FACILITIES	<u>\$100,000</u>

36

SECTION 34. APPROPRIATION - BYRNE JAG GRANT. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for grants and aid to improve collaborative efforts with behavioral health and criminal justice stakeholders for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) GRANTS AND AID	<u>\$150,000</u>

SECTION 35. APPROPRIATION - COURT TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses for advancing the case management system in Arkansas for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$0
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	4,027,500
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$4,027,500</u>

SECTION 36. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. FUND TRANSFER. Federal funds received by the Arkansas State Police from the United States Department of Transportation from safety incentive funds received under 23 USC Section 402 for the "State and Community Highway Safety Program" may be granted to the Administrative Office of the Courts and deposited into the State Central Services Fund to reimburse expenditures by the Administrative Office of the Courts for operating expenses of the Continuing Education Program for District Judges as appropriated in the

1 District Judges Continuing Education - State appropriation herein. The
2 appropriation to the Administrative Office of the Courts provided in the
3 District Judges Continuing Education - State appropriation may be expended
4 only in the event that federal funds have been granted and will be
5 transferred from the Arkansas State Police to reimburse the Continuing
6 Education Program for District Judges.

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 37. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
11 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

12 DEPENDENCY-NEGLECT REPRESENTATION APPROPRIATION TRANSFER AUTHORITY. The
13 Administrative Office of the Courts shall receive approval from the Chief
14 Fiscal Officer of the State and Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget
15 Committee to transfer funds and appropriations between line items Regular
16 Salaries, Personal Services Matching, Operating Expense, Professional Fees
17 and Attorney Ad Litem Fees/Reimbursements of the Division of Dependency-
18 Neglect Representation appropriation herein for the payment of employees
19 and/or contractors providing legal services for the Division of Dependency-
20 Neglect Representation.

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

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

3
4 SECTION 38. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
5 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
6 MONTHLY INSTALLMENT. From July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 20, ~~2026~~ 2027, a
7 lump sum monthly installment of at least one-twelfth (1/12) of a portion of
8 the annual appropriation provided for in the Division of Dependency-Neglect
9 Representation appropriation of this Act, or so much thereof as may be made
10 available, shall be provided from the State Administration of Justice Fund to
11 the State Central Services Fund to provide a portion of the funds for that
12 appropriation.

13 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
14 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

15
16 SECTION 39. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
17 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
18 TRANSFER PROVISION. After receiving approval from the Chief Fiscal Officer
19 of the State and Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, the
20 Agency is authorized to transfer appropriation from any line item authorized
21 in Court Automation Appropriation of the Administrative Office of the Courts
22 in this Act to any other line item authorized in Court Automation
23 Appropriation.

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

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

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

6
7 SECTION 40. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
8 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. FUNDING
9 AND APPROPRIATION TRANSFER AUTHORITY FOR COUNTY JUROR REIMBURSEMENT. (i)
10 After receiving prior approval by the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint
11 Budget Committee if meeting in a Legislative Session, the Director of the
12 Administrative Office of the Courts may direct the Chief Fiscal Officer of
13 the State to transfer appropriation to the County Juror Reimbursement
14 appropriation and State Central Services funding in the same amount to the
15 County Juror Reimbursement Fund from any State Central Services Fund
16 appropriation authorized for the Administrative Office of the Courts.

17 (ii) Determining the maximum amount of appropriation and funding for a state
18 agency each fiscal year is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is
19 usually accomplished by delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s)
20 for a state agency and the general revenue allocations authorized for each
21 fund and fund account by amendment to the Revenue Stabilization law.

22 Further, the General Assembly has determined that the Administrative Office
23 of the Courts may operate more efficiently if some flexibility is provided to
24 the Administrative Office of the Courts authorizing broad powers under this
25 Section. Therefore, it is both necessary and appropriate that the General
26 Assembly maintain oversight by requiring prior approval of the Legislative
27 Council or Joint Budget Committee, if meeting in a Legislative Session, as
28 provided by this section. The requirement of approval by the Legislative
29 Council or Joint Budget Committee is not a severable part of this section.
30 If the requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget
31 Committee is ruled unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction,
32 this entire section is void.

33 (iii) The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,
34 ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

35

36 SECTION 41. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS

1 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY

2 LAW. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT 371 OF 2025 – INSTALLMENT FEES IN DISTRICT COURT.

3 (a)(1) The Administrative Office of the Courts may develop
4 implementation guidance to assist district courts with proper assessment of
5 installment fees in district court.

6 (2) The assessment and collection of installment fees shall
7 be implemented in a manner that minimizes the financial hardship imposed on
8 individuals who are authorized to pay fines on an installment basis.

9 (3) An installment fee totaling seventeen dollars and fifty
10 cents (\$17.50) shall not be assessed under Acts 2025, No. 371, on a defendant
11 in a department of a district court.

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

14
15 SECTION 42. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds
16 authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency
17 and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and
18 the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and
19 Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary
20 Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal
21 control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by
22 the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be
23 strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

24
25 SECTION 43. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General
26 Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations
27 contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for
28 which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive
29 Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget
30 manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or
31 summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative
32 Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

33
34 SECTION 44. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
35 General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits
36 the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the

1 effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2026 is essential to the operation of
2 the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in
3 the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the
4 effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2026 could work irreparable harm
5 upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental
6 programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act
7 being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health
8 and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2026.

9
10 */s/Joint Budget Committee*

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13 **APPROVED: 5/1/26**
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