

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

A Bill

SENATE BILL 14

5 By: Joint Budget Committee
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES
10 AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE ARKANSAS STATE GAME
11 AND FISH COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE
12 30, 2027; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
13
14

Subtitle

15 AN ACT FOR THE ARKANSAS STATE GAME AND
16 FISH COMMISSION APPROPRIATION FOR THE
17 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
22

23 SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES. There is hereby established for the
24 Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the
25 following maximum number of regular employees.
26

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2026-2027
31	(1) Q249U	AGFC DIRECTOR	1	\$170,437
32	(2) Q250U	AGFC CHIEF OF STAFF	1	\$136,703
33	(3) Q251U	AGFC DEPUTY DIRECTOR	3	\$135,253
34	(4) Q255U	AGFC CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER	1	\$132,292
35	(5) Q252U	AGFC VETERINARIAN	1	\$130,050
36	(6) Q256U	AGFC COLONEL	1	\$128,282



1	(7)	Q266U	AGFC IT ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR	1	\$127,986
2	(8)	Q371U	AGFC CHIEF OF HUMAN RESOURCES	1	\$125,049
3	(9)	Q370U	AGFC CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	1	\$125,049
4	(10)	Q254U	AGFC GENERAL COUNSEL	1	\$125,049
5	(11)	Q404U	AGFC LIEUTENANT COLONEL	1	\$121,923
6	(12)	Q375U	AGFC CHIEF OF FISHERIES	1	\$121,321
7	(13)	Q374U	AGFC CHIEF OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT	1	\$121,321
8	(14)	Q373U	AGFC CHIEF OF EDUCATION	1	\$121,321
9	(15)	Q372U	AGFC CHIEF OF OPERATIONS	1	\$121,321
10	(16)	Q393U	AGFC DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL	1	\$117,593
11	(17)	Q392U	AGFC CONTROLLER	1	\$117,593
12	(18)	Q381U	AGFC CHIEF OF RESEARCH	1	\$117,593
13	(19)	Q380U	AGFC CHIEF OF SHOOTING SPORTS	1	\$117,593
14	(20)	Q379U	AGFC CHIEF OF PRIVATE LANDS MGMT	1	\$117,593
15	(21)	Q378U	AGFC CHIEF OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDTN	1	\$117,593
16	(22)	Q377U	AGFC CHIEF OF GIS	1	\$117,593
17	(23)	Q376U	AGFC CHIEF OF COMMUNICATIONS	1	\$117,593
18	(24)	Q261U	AGFC MAJOR	3	\$115,563
19	(25)	Q265U	AGFC IT SOFTWARE ENGINEER LEAD	1	\$113,591
20	(26)	Q258U	AGFC GIS LEAD	1	\$113,591
21	(27)		AGFC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POOL	13	\$113,591
22		Q383U	AGFC IT SECURITY SPECIALIST		\$113,591
23		Q382U	AGFC IT DATA SCIENTIST		\$113,591
24		Q384U	AGFC IT SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR		\$113,591
25		Q386U	AGFC IT SENIOR SOFTWARE SUP SPEC		\$98,718
26		Q385U	AGFC IT DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR		\$98,718
27		Q283U	AGFC IT SENIOR SOFTWARE SUP ANALYST		\$95,269
28		Q387U	AGFC IT PROJECT MANAGER		\$95,269
29		Q388U	AGFC IT NETWORK SUPPORT ANALYST		\$95,269
30		Q389U	AGFC IT SYSTEMS SPECIALIST		\$95,269
31		Q410U	AGFC IT PROJECT COORDINATOR		\$90,064
32		Q390U	AGFC IT COMPUTER SUPPORT SPECIALIST		\$90,064
33		Q308U	AGFC IT WEBSITE DEVELOPER		\$78,575
34		Q391U	AGFC IT ASSET MANAGER		\$78,575
35		Q365U	AGFC IT SOFTWARE SUPPORT ANALYST		\$72,345
36		Q311U	AGFC IT COMPUTER SUPPORT ANALYST		\$72,345

1	Q409U	AGFC IT DATA ANALYST		\$67,267	
2	Q364U	AGFC IT SOFTWARE SUPPORT SPECIALIST		\$66,316	
3	(28)	Q267U	AGFC CAPTAIN	14	\$107,692
4	(29)	Q260U	AGFC DIVISION ASST CHIEF	24	\$105,933
5	(30)	Q276U	AGFC LIEUTENANT	15	\$103,930
6	(31)	Q284U	AGFC SERGEANT	26	\$100,285
7	(32)		AGFC CONS PROGRAM BIOLOGIST POOL	90	\$99,107
8		Q394U	AGFC CONS PROGRAM BIOLOGIST III		\$99,107
9		Q402U	AGFC CONS PROGRAM BIOLOGIST II		\$89,744
10		Q403U	AGFC CONS PROGRAM BIOLOGIST I		\$86,609
11	(33)	Q268U	AGFC ASSISTANT CONTROLLER	1	\$98,718
12	(34)		AGFC ATTORNEY POOL	2	\$98,718
13		Q452U	AGFC ATTORNEY SPECIALIST		\$98,718
14		Q269U	AGFC ATTORNEY		\$89,744
15	(35)		AGFC GIS POOL	6	\$98,718
16		Q271U	AGFC SENIOR GIS ANALYST		\$98,718
17		Q279U	AGFC GIS ANALYST		\$95,269
18		Q356U	AGFC GIS TECHNICIAN		\$68,354
19	(36)	Q368U	AGFC STATEWIDE PROJECT MANAGER	8	\$98,718
20	(37)		AGFC ENFORCEMENT POOL	126	\$96,748
21		Q288U	AGFC CORPORAL		\$96,748
22		Q299U	AGFC GAME WARDEN 1ST CLASS		\$90,004
23		Q309U	AGFC GAME WARDEN		\$85,718
24	(38)		AGFC SKILLED TRADES POOL	28	\$89,744
25		Q278U	AGFC OPERATIONS & FACILITY MANAGER		\$89,744
26		Q396U	AGFC FLEET MANAGER		\$86,609
27		Q307U	AGFC SURVEYOR		\$78,576
28		Q306U	AGFC REAL ESTATE OFFICER		\$75,004
29		Q285U	AGFC CONSTRUCTION MANAGER		\$71,432
30		Q315U	AGFC MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR		\$71,432
31		Q400U	AGFC REGIONAL FACILITY MANAGER		\$71,432
32		Q319U	AGFC COMMUNICATIONS SYS SUPERVISOR		\$68,031
33		Q326U	AGFC SKILLED TRADESMAN		\$68,031
34		Q304U	AGFC CENTRAL WAREHOUSE OPER MGR		\$61,706
35		Q327U	AGFC AUTO/DIESEL MECHANIC		\$61,706
36		Q335U	AGFC MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN		\$61,706

1		Q329U	AGFC CALIBRATION TECHNICIAN		\$58,767
2		Q331U	AGFC FIRING RANGE SPECIALIST		\$58,767
3	(39)		AGFC HR POOL	4	\$89,744
4		Q408U	AGFC PAYROLL MANAGER		\$89,744
5		Q292U	AGFC PERSONNEL MANAGER		\$89,081
6		Q301U	AGFC ASSISTANT PERSONNEL MANAGER		\$75,004
7		Q313U	AGFC HUMAN RESOURCE ANALYST		\$68,031
8	(40)		AGFC EDUCATION PROGRAM POOL	51	\$86,609
9		Q277U	AGFC NAT CENTER/SHOOTING FAC MGR II		\$86,609
10		Q296U	AGFC EDU STATEWIDE COORDINATOR		\$75,004
11		Q353U	AGFC NAT CENTER/SHOOTING FAC MGR I		\$75,004
12		Q302U	AGFC EDUCATION PROGRAM SPECIALIST		\$71,432
13	(41)		AGFC GRANTS MANAGEMENT POOL	4	\$86,609
14		Q291U	AGFC GRANTS MANAGER		\$86,609
15		Q398U	AGFC GRANTS COORDINATOR II		\$75,004
16		Q297U	AGFC GRANTS COORDINATOR I		\$71,432
17	(42)	Q354U	AGFC ACCOUNTING COORDINATOR	1	\$86,609
18	(43)		AGFC BIOLOGIST POOL	109	\$80,624
19		Q395U	AGFC BIOLOGIST II		\$80,624
20		Q294U	AGFC BIOLOGIST I		\$75,004
21		Q310U	AGFC BIOLOGICAL TECHNICIAN II		\$68,031
22		Q337U	AGFC BIOLOGICAL TECHNICIAN I		\$61,706
23	(44)	Q450U	AGFC FOI COORDINATOR	1	\$75,004
24	(45)	Q294U	AGFC BIOLOGIST I	3	\$75,004
25	(46)	Q303U	AGFC EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	1	\$75,004
26	(47)		AGFC ADMIN SUPPORT POOL	37	\$75,004
27		Q318U	AGFC REGIONAL OFFICES ADMINISTRATOR		\$75,004
28		Q323U	AGFC ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST		\$68,031
29		Q328U	AGFC ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE COORD		\$64,644
30		Q339U	AGFC ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST		\$58,767
31	(48)		AGFC ACCOUNTING POOL	3	\$75,004
32		Q357U	AGFC ACCOUNTANT II		\$75,004
33		Q406U	AGFC ACCOUNTANT I		\$71,432
34	(49)		AGFC COMMUNICATIONS POOL	10	\$75,004
35		Q397U	AGFC CREATIVE ARTIST		\$75,004
36		Q399U	AGFC COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR		\$71,432

1	Q316U	AGFC PHOTOGRAPHER		\$71,432	
2	Q330U	AGFC COMMERCIAL GRAPHIC ARTIST		\$64,444	
3	Q336U	AGFC MULTIMEDIA SPECIALIST		\$61,706	
4	(50)	Q435U	AGFC TELECOMMUNICATIONS MANAGER	1	\$75,004
5	(51)	Q300U	AGFC LICENSING SUPERVISOR	2	\$75,004
6	(52)	Q298U	AGFC PROCUREMENT COORDINATOR	1	\$75,004
7	(53)	Q322U	AGFC TELECOMMUNICATIONS SUPERVISOR	1	\$68,031
8	(54)	Q314U	AGFC LEGAL SERVICES SPECIALIST	1	\$68,031
9	(55)	Q305U	AGFC FISCAL SUPPORT SUPERVISOR	1	\$67,877
10	(56)		AGFC FISCAL SUPPORT POOL	12	\$61,706
11		Q324U	AGFC FISCAL SUPPORT ANALYST		\$61,706
12		Q340U	AGFC FISCAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST		\$58,767
13	(57)	Q333U	AGFC TELECOMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST	9	\$61,706
14	(58)	Q401U	AGFC PRINTER/MAIL SERVICES SPEC	1	\$58,767
15	(59)	Q343U	AGFC LICENSING SPECIALIST	8	\$58,767
16	(60)	Q334U	AGFC INVENTORY CONTROL MANAGER	1	\$58,767
17	(61)	Q332U	AGFC FOOD PREPARATION MANAGER	1	\$58,767
18	(62)	Q341U	AGFC FOOD PREPARATION SUPERVISOR	<u>1</u>	\$50,131
19		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES		647	

20

21 SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP. There is hereby authorized, for the Arkansas
 22 State Game and Fish Commission for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following
 23 maximum number of part-time or temporary employees, to be known as "Extra
 24 Help", payable from funds appropriated herein for such purposes: one hundred
 25 eighty-five (185) temporary or part-time employees, when needed, at rates of
 26 pay not to exceed those provided in the Uniform Classification and
 27 Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act for the appropriate
 28 classification.

29

30 SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated,
 31 to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be payable from the Game
 32 Protection Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the Arkansas
 33 State Game and Fish Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the
 34 following:

35

36 ITEM FISCAL YEAR

1	NO.	2026-2027
2	(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$46,698,077
3	(02) EXTRA HELP	1,891,500
4	(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	16,826,509
5	(04) OVERTIME	250,000
6	(05) UNIFORM ALLOWANCE	1,000,000
7	(06) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
8	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	54,907,780
9	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	517,727
10	(C) PROF. FEES	4,070,553
11	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	8,764,000
12	(E) DATA PROC.	0
13	(07) GRANTS AND AID	9,558,644
14	(08) CONSTRUCTION	<u>17,738,903</u>
15	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$162,223,693</u>

16

17 SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - GAS LEASE REVENUES. There is hereby

18 appropriated, to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be payable

19 from the Game Protection Fund, for maintenance and general operations,

20 capital projects, acquisition of land and conservation easements, grants, and

21 expenses associated with Disaster Response of the Arkansas State Game and

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

23

24	ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
25	NO.	2026-2027
26	(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
27	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$850,000
28	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
29	(C) PROF. FEES	350,000
30	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	750,000
31	(E) DATA PROC.	0
32	(02) GAS LEASE GRANTS	50,000
33	(03) DISASTER RESPONSE	<u>3,000,000</u>
34	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$5,000,000</u>

35

36 SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - FARM BILL BIOLOGISTS. There is hereby

1 appropriated, to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be payable
 2 from the Game Protection Fund, for personal services and operating expenses
 3 associated with implementing Farm Bill Programs of the Arkansas State Game
 4 and Fish Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

6 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
7 <u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
8 (01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$479,508
9 (02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	164,143
10 (03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
11 (A) OPER. EXPENSE	1,350
12 (B) CONF. & TRAVEL	14,580
13 (C) PROF. FEES	0
14 (D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
15 (E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
16 TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$659,581</u></u>

17
 18 SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - CONSERVATION PARTNERS PROGRAM GRANTS. There
 19 is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be
 20 payable from the Game Protection Fund, for grants to conservation partners,
 21 or other eligible entities for operating, equipment, and maintenance expenses
 22 associated with addressing statewide hunger needs of the Arkansas State Game
 23 and Fish 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) CONSERVATION PARTNERS PROGRAM GRANTS	<u><u>\$150,000</u></u>

28
 29 SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - BLACK RIVER SETTLEMENT FUNDS. There is
 30 hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be
 31 payable from the Game Protection Fund, for all expenses associated with the
 32 mitigation to the hardwood timber destruction in the Wildlife Management
 33 Area, inclusive of Regular Salaries and Personal Services Matching of the
 34 Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30,
 35 2027, the following:

36

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) RESTORATION OF BLACK RIVER WMA	
EXPENSES	<u>\$13,250,000</u>

SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - MARINE FUEL TAX PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be payable from the Game Protection Fund, for personal services, operating expenses and expenditures associated with increasing and improving access to waterways of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) MARINE FUEL TAX PROGRAM	<u>\$6,000,000</u>

SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - GTR AND WETLAND HABITAT RESTORATION. There is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be payable from the Game Protection Fund, for all expenses associated with Greentree reservoir renovation and other wetland habitat restoration of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) GTR & WETLAND HABITAT RENOVATION	<u>\$20,000,000</u>

SECTION 10. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. PAYMENT OF REWARDS. Payment of rewards shall be from the Game Protection Fund from the Commission's Maintenance and General Operation appropriation as herein appropriated in the Operating Expenses line item of the Operations appropriation.

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

36

1 SECTION 11. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
2 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER
3 PROVISION. After receiving approval from the Chief Fiscal Officer of the
4 State, and prior review by the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget
5 Committee, the Agency is authorized to transfer appropriation from any line
6 item authorized in the Operations appropriation to any other line item
7 authorized in the Operations appropriation and the Agency is authorized to
8 transfer appropriation from any line item authorized in the Gas Lease
9 Revenues appropriation to any other line item authorized in the same section.

10 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
11 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

12
13 SECTION 12. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
14 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
15 PROMOTIONAL ITEMS. The Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission is hereby
16 authorized to purchase from the Maintenance & General Operation
17 Classifications in the Operations Appropriation provided by this Act for
18 promotional items in an amount not to exceed fifty thousand dollars
19 (\$50,000), as authorized by the Director of the Commission to meet fish and
20 wildlife conservations and education needs.

21 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~
22 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

23
24 SECTION 13. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
25 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. DIRECTOR
26 SALARY INCREASE RESTRICTION. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Director
27 shall not receive any salary adjustment that exceeds their June 17, ~~2025~~ 2026
28 actual salary by more than five percent (5%) without first receiving prior
29 approval from the Legislative Council or if the General Assembly is in
30 regular session, fiscal session, or extraordinary session, the Joint Budget
31 Committee.

32 It is both necessary and appropriate that the General Assembly maintain
33 oversight by requiring prior approval of the Legislative Council or Joint
34 Budget Committee as provided by this section. The requirement of approval by
35 the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is not a severable part of
36 this section. If the requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or

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

3 The provisions of this section shall be in effect through June 30, 2026
4 2027.

5
6 SECTION 14. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds
7 authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency
8 and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and
9 the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and
10 Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary
11 Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal
12 control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by
13 the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be
14 strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

15
16 SECTION 15. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General
17 Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations
18 contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for
19 which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive
20 Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget
21 manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or
22 summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative
23 Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

24
25 SECTION 16. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
26 General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits
27 the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the
28 effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2026 is essential to the operation of
29 the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in
30 the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the
31 effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2026 could work irreparable harm
32 upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental
33 programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act
34 being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health
35 and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2026.

36 APPROVED: 4/27/26