

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 331

5 By: Joint Budget Committee
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION TO THE ARKANSAS
9 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FOR CAPITAL
10 IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, GRANTS, AND PROGRAMS; AND FOR
11 OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

14 AN ACT FOR THE ARKANSAS ECONOMIC
15 DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION - CAPITAL
16 IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, GRANTS AND PROGRAMS
17 GENERAL IMPROVEMENT APPROPRIATION.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - GENERAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS. There is hereby
24 appropriated, to the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, to be payable
25 from the General Improvement Fund or its successor fund or fund accounts, the
26 following:

27 (A) for a transfer to the Economic Development Incentive Quick Action
28 Closing Fund, for incentives to attract new business and economic development
29 to the state, in a sum not to exceed.....\$50,000,000.

30 (B) for funding for an investment in Arkansas' workforce through
31 training incentives for companies located in Arkansas to upgrade skills of
32 their existing workforce, or for a potential new workforce, and to build
33 capacity within Arkansas to supply on-going training needs of Arkansas
34 companies and to increase participation in the State's school-to-work
35 initiatives, in a sum not to exceed.....\$3,000,000.

36 (C) for payments on bonds issued for economic development projects



1 authorized under Amendment 82 to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas of
2 1874, in a sum not to exceed.....\$7,000,000.

3 (D) for funding for grants and/or loans to state agencies, cities,
4 counties, community-based non-profit organizations and other eligible
5 entities to undertake public works projects and/or job training efforts which
6 support private sector job creation opportunities, alleviate conditions which
7 constitute a threat to public health and well being, or partially defray the
8 costs of providing access to publicly owned industrial parks, and/or
9 technology parks; to provide grants and/or loans for the expansion of the
10 aircraft and aerospace industry; grants and/or loans for port and waterway
11 economic development projects; grants and/or loans for technology based
12 economic development projects; grants and/or loans for industrial site
13 development costs (including, but not limited to land acquisition,
14 construction, renovation, and equipment acquisition); development of
15 intermodal facilities (including, but not limited to port and waterway
16 projects, rail spur construction and road and highway improvements); grants
17 and/or loans to pay the costs of environmental mitigation projects; and for
18 construction and/or improvement of water and sewer systems, in a sum not to
19 exceed.....\$20,000,000.

20 (E) for funding for grants and/or loans to state agencies, cities,
21 counties, community-based non-profit organizations and other eligible
22 entities to support economic stimulus activities throughout the State, in a
23 sum not to exceed.....\$10,000,000.

24 (F) for a transfer to the Arkansas Acceleration Fund for the Arkansas
25 business technology accelerator program, in a sum not to exceed
26\$2,000,000.

27 (G) for allocation by the Executive Director of the Arkansas Economic
28 Development Commission for activities associated with the implementation of
29 the State's strategic plan for economic development, in a sum not to
30 exceed.....\$500,000.

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32 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM -
33 CREATE REBATE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas Economic
34 Development Commission, to be payable from the Economic Development Incentive
35 Fund of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, the following:

36 (A) for financial incentives to companies locating a new facility or

1 expanding an existing facility within the State of Arkansas and for companies
2 that hire and maintain specified levels of employment, as identified in
3 signed financial agreements, in a sum not to exceed.....\$37,500,000.
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5 SECTION 3. DISBURSEMENT CONTROLS. (A) No contract may be awarded nor
6 obligations otherwise incurred in relation to the project or projects
7 described herein in excess of the State Treasury funds actually available
8 therefor as provided by law. Provided, however, that institutions and
9 agencies listed herein shall have the authority to accept and use grants and
10 donations including Federal funds, and to use its unobligated cash income or
11 funds, or both available to it, for the purpose of supplementing the State
12 Treasury funds for financing the entire costs of the project or projects
13 enumerated herein. Provided further, that the appropriations and funds
14 otherwise provided by the General Assembly for Maintenance and General
15 Operations of the agency or institutions receiving appropriation herein shall
16 not be used for any of the purposes as appropriated in this act.

17 (B) The restrictions of any applicable provisions of the State
18 Purchasing Law, the General Accounting and Budgetary Procedures Law, the
19 Revenue Stabilization Law and any other applicable fiscal control laws of
20 this State and regulations promulgated by the Department of Finance and
21 Administration, as authorized by law, shall be strictly complied with in
22 disbursement of any funds provided by this act unless specifically provided
23 otherwise by law.
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25 SECTION 4. 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.
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34 SECTION 5. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General
35 Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits the
36 appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the

1 effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2017 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, 2017 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, 2017.

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11 **APPROVED: 03/13/2017**
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