

**BUREAU OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (0011)  
2007-09 BIENNIUM**

**I) AGENCY SUMMARY & REVENUE SOURCES**

**Mission**

The Bureau of Legislative Research of the Arkansas Legislative Council was established by Act 192 of 1947 as a service agency within the legislative department of government and its employees are employees of the Arkansas General Assembly. The BLR operates under the control and direction of the Arkansas Legislative Council and provides to legislators: bill drafting services, staffing of legislative committees, research materials and reports, a legislative reference library, staff assistance with various budgetary and fiscal issues/processes, and performs a variety of other duties as may be directed by the Arkansas Legislative Council or General Assembly.

**Total Biennial Budget**

The total budget for the operations of the Bureau of Legislative Research for the 2007-2009 biennium is \$15,354,023 the first year and \$15,158,881 the second year. This does not include three appropriations for which the Bureau acts as the Disbursing Officer.

The Director of the Bureau of Legislative Research acts as disbursing officer for the payment of interim committee study expenses, payment of legislative per diem, mileage and expenses for attendance at interim committee meetings, and payment of the state's contributions to the Energy Council. The total budget for these appropriations is \$2,033,262 for both years.

**Funding Source**

The Bureau of Legislative Research of the Arkansas Legislative Council is funded through the State Central Services Fund.

**II) SIGNIFICANT CHANGES**

The Operations Appropriation is for \$15.4 million the first year and \$15.2 million the second year which is an increase over base level of \$787,669 and \$400,000 for increases in operating expenses and capital outlay.

The Disbursing Officer appropriations are at base level.

**III) ADDITIONAL POSITIONS**

Total positions FY 2007-09:132

Total positions FY 2005-07:136

- 3 Legislative Attorney 1
- 1 Legislative Attorney-Contingency
- 1 Senior Legislative Analyst-Contingency
- 2 Legislative Analyst-Contingency
- 1 Administrative Assistant-Contingency
- +3 Legislative Attorney II
- +1 Senior Legal Editor

**IV) SPECIAL LANGUAGE**

Transfer Provision. Provides that any unexpended balance of appropriation provided in the Act shall be transferred forward from the first to the second fiscal year. It also provides that if appropriations for the first year are insufficient, that the Director of the Bureau may certify the amount needed to the Chief Fiscal Officer who shall transfer the certified amount from the second fiscal year to the first.

Transfer Provision - Line Items. Allows the Director to direct the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State to transfer appropriation between the appropriations in the Act.

Contingency Positions - Restrictions. Provides that positions

authorized as contingency shall be filled only in the event that programs are required to be implemented that were not contemplated at the time of the submission of the biennial budget.

Senior Career Service Positions. Provides that the Senior Career Service Positions shall be used for incumbents who are unable to obtain pay increases that other Bureau employees are entitled to due to their exceptional tenure.

Cost of Living Increases. Provides that Bureau employees having a labor grade shall be eligible for cost of living increases equal to other state employees, and any additional adjustments in annual salary rates for Bureau employees shall be made at the discretion of the Director of the Bureau.

Disbursing Officer. Establishes the Director of the Bureau as the disbursing officer for all of the appropriations in operations appropriation act which includes the appropriations for Interim Committee Study Expenses.

Performance Rewards. The Director may implement a program to reward exceptional employees similar to the Career Ladder Incentive Plan with approval of the Legislative Council.