

**BUREAU OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (0011)
FISCAL YEAR 2015**

I) AGENCY SUMMARY & REVENUE SOURCES

Mission

The Bureau of Legislative Research of the Arkansas Legislative Council was established in 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 Budget

The total budget is \$17,074,202 for FY2015. 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 each year.

Funding Source

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

II) SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Operations Appropriation

- Appropriated at \$17,074,202 for FY2015 which is \$400,000 over base level for restoration of Capital Outlay to FY2013 authorized level.
- Reallocation of \$670,000 from Contingency line item to Extra Help in amount of \$70,000 and Operating Expenses in amount of \$600,000.

Disbursing Officer

- All appropriations requested at Base Level:
 - Interim Committee Study Expenses \$271,060
 - Interim Committee Expenses \$1,696,396
 - Energy Council \$65,806

III) ADDITIONAL POSITIONS

Total Positions FY2015: 129

Total Positions FY2014: 129

Total Budgeted Positions FY2013: 129

IV) SPECIAL LANGUAGE

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.

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.