

BUREAU OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (0011)
FISCAL YEAR 2016
As Enacted by Act 138 of 2015

I) AGENCY SUMMARY & REVENUE SOURCES

MISSION

The Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR) 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 APPROPRIATION

The total operations appropriation for FY2016 is \$17,299,781.

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 appropriation for these appropriations is \$2,033,262 for FY2016.

FUNDING SOURCE

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

II) CHANGE LEVEL REQUESTS

OPERATIONS

Appropriated at \$17,299,781 which is \$498,328 over base level for salary and match for one new position (Senior Legislative Attorney II) and restoration of capital outlay of \$400,000 to FY2015 authorized level.

III) ADDITIONAL POSITIONS (Total Authorized Positions FY2015:129)

Total Authorized Positions FY2016:130

Total Base Level Positions:129

Increase/(Decrease)Over Base Level:1

Extra Help Positions FY2016:31 (Total FY2015 Authorized Extra Help:31)

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.