



GL #17

**STATE OF ARKANSAS
SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS
GOVERNOR**

March 10, 2026

Senator Jonathan Dismang, Co-Chair
Representative Lane Jean, Co-Chair
Joint Budget Committee
Arkansas General Assembly
State Capitol Building
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Co-Chairs:

I respectfully request the following amendments to the 2026-2027 Operations Appropriation Bill for the Department of Inspector General.

Please amend SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION – SHARED SERVICES PAYING ACCOUNT as follows and renumber accordingly:

Item No.		Fiscal Year 2026-2027
<u>(XX) PROGRAM INTEGRITY</u>		<u>5,000,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$1,353,103</u>	<u>\$6,353,103</u>

The above request is necessary to conduct independent fraud investigations, in accordance with professional auditing standards, to promote accountability, safeguard state assets, and support executive agencies in strengthening internal controls and compliance within Arkansas state government.

Please amend SECTION 4. EXTRA HELP – OPERATIONS – OFFICE OF MEDICAID INSPECTOR GENERAL as follows:

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SECTION 4. EXTRA HELP - OPERATIONS - OFFICE OF MEDICAID INSPECTOR GENERAL. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Inspector General - Office of Medicaid Inspector General for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of part-time or temporary employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from funds appropriated herein for such purposes: ~~two~~ (2) one (1) temporary or part-time employees, when needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in the Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act for the appropriate classification.

Immediately following Section 20, please insert the following and renumber accordingly:

SECTION XX. EXTRA HELP - OPERATIONS - OFFICE OF THE JUVENILE OMBUDSMAN. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Inspector General - Office of the Juvenile Ombudsman for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of part-time or temporary employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from funds appropriated herein for such purposes: one (1) temporary or part-time employee, when needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in the Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act for the appropriate classification.

The above requests are necessary to transfer one (1) extra help position from the Office of Medicaid Inspector General to the Office of the Juvenile Ombudsman.

Please amend SECTION 21. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF THE JUVENILE OMBUDSMAN as follows and renumber accordingly:

Item No.		Fiscal Year 2026-2027
(01)	REGULAR SALARIES	\$58,972 <u>\$121,531</u>
(XX)	EXTRA HELP	<u>4,800</u>
(03)	PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	21,519 <u>43,756</u>
(XX)	MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	<u>25,943</u>
	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	<u>4,000</u>
	(C) PROF. FEES	<u>0</u>
	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	<u>0</u>
	(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$80,491</u> <u>\$200,030</u>

The above request is necessary to increase appropriations due to the transfer of the

Juvenile Ombudsman Division from the Arkansas Public Defender Commission to the Department of Inspector General, pursuant to Act 825 of 2025.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Sanders". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Governor of Arkansas

ARKANSAS SENATE
95th General Assembly - Fiscal Session, 2026
Amendment Form

DRAFT

Subtitle of Senate Bill 19

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTOR GENERAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE
2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR.

Amendment No. ___ to Senate Bill 19

Amend Senate Bill 19 as originally introduced:

On page 2, delete lines 22 and 23 in their entirety and substitute the following:

"	(E) DATA PROC.	0
(04)	PROGRAM INTEGRITY	<u>5,000,000</u>
	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$6,353,103</u></u> "

AND

On page 3, line 13, delete "two" and substitute "one"

AND

On page 3, line 14, delete "(2)" and substitute "(1)"

AND

On page 10, immediately following SECTION 20, insert the following SECTION:

" SECTION 21. EXTRA HELP - OFFICE OF THE JUVENILE OMBUDSMAN. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Inspector General - Office of the Juvenile Ombudsman for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum

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number of part-time or temporary employees, to be known as "Extra Help", payable from funds appropriated herein for such purposes: one (1) temporary or part-time employees, when needed, at rates of pay not to exceed those provided in the Uniform Classification and Compensation Act, or its successor, or this act for the appropriate classification."

AND

On page 11, delete lines 3 through 5 in their entirety and substitute the following:

"(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$121,531
(02) EXTRA HELP	4,800
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	43,756
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	25,943
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	4,000
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$200,030"</u>

AND

Appropriately renumber the SECTION numbers of the bill.

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and _____
By: Joint Budget Committee
LCW/LCW - 04-02-2026 03:28:07
LCW096 _____ Secretary