



STATE OF ARKANSAS
ASA HUTCHINSON
GOVERNOR

February 24, 2021

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 HB1083, the 2021-2022 Operations Appropriation Bill for the State Department for Social Security Administration Disability Determination.

Please amend SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Item Class, No. Code, Title, Maximum No. of Employees, Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Rows include (4) Lo24N DDSSA MEDICAL SPECIALIST, (16) X207C DDSSA ADJUDICATOR V, and MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES.

Please amend SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION – OPERATIONS as follows:

Table with 4 columns: ITEM NO., Description, Amount, FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022. Rows include (01) REGULAR SALARIES, (03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING, (04) OVERTIME, (05) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION, (A) OPER. EXPENSE, (C) PROF. FEES, and TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED.

These requests will provide an additional twenty positions (20), Regular Salaries and Personal Services Matching appropriation for the positions, and incorporate a

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portion of the Miscellaneous Federal Grant appropriation request recently approved for the current fiscal year by the Joint Budget Committee to support the one hundred fifty (50) new positions that have been added due to expectation of increased casework. The positions are federally funded.

Please insert the following special language section and renumber accordingly:

SECTION X. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. ADDITIONAL POSITIONS. The Director of the State Department for Social Security Administration Disability Determination, after receiving the approval of the Office of Personnel Management, and after seeking prior review by the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, shall have the authority to establish such new additional full time positions as may become necessary to carry out the objectives of the department and/or to meet Federal requirements of new and/or expanded programs where such needs are financed by Federal funds; provided that not more than two hundred fifty (250) positions may be created in addition to those authorized in the Regular Salaries section of this Act.

If the department requests continuation of any positions as established herein, the positions must be requested as new positions in the department's budget request.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

This language will provide a pool of positions for the State Department for Social Security Administration Disability Determination (DDSSA). DDSSA occasionally receives authorization from the U.S. Social Security Administration for additional adjudicators and other staff to administer disability claims from around the United States. The timing of these authorizations is often unpredictable, as it is based on the availability of federal funds. In order to rapidly respond to these federal authorizations, a pool of positions from which DDSSA can draw is warranted. The opportunity to attract additional jobs to Arkansas using 100% federal funds, coupled with DDSSA's history of performance and financial responsibility, further underscores the desirability of this solution.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Asa Hutchinson