



**GL #10**

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
ASA HUTCHINSON  
GOVERNOR

February 22, 2022

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 SB67, the 2022-2023 Operations Appropriation Bill for the Department of Commerce.

Please amend SECTION 3. REGULAR SALARIES – OFFICE OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT as follows:

Item No.	Class Code Title	Maximum Annual Salary Rate	
		Maximum No. of Employees	Fiscal Year 2022-2023
(5)	E075C ACOM PROGRAM ADVISOR	<del>2</del> 3	GRADE GS09
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	<del>12</del> 13	

Please amend SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION – OFFICE OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION - OPERATIONS as follows:

Item No.		Fiscal Year 2022-2023
(01)	REGULAR SALARIES	<del>\$522,665</del> \$572,887
(02)	PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	<del>160,339</del> 177,115
	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<del>\$2,447,460</del> \$2,514,458

This request will add an additional position which will allow the department staff to operate more efficiently.

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Please amend SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION – OFFICE OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT as follows:

ITEM NO.		FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023
(03)	MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	<del>165,000</del> <u>65,000</u>
	(C) PROF. FEES	<del>0</del> <u>50,000</u>
	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	<del>0</del> <u>50,000</u>

This request will reallocate \$100,000 in appropriation from operating to professional fees and capital outlay. The reallocation of appropriation will be utilized for marketing contracts and to replace a vehicle.

Please amend SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS WINE CENTER as follows:

SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS WINE CENTER TOURISM FACILITY. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Tourism Development Trust Fund, for land acquisition, construction, lease, equipment acquisition, improvements, renovation, major maintenance, personal services, maintenance and operating expenses of the Department of Commerce – Arkansas Wine Center associated with the wine tourism facility in Franklin County, Arkansas for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the following:

ITEM NO.		FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023
(01)	<u>ARKANSAS WINE CENTER EXPENSES TOURISM FACILITY EXPENSES</u>	<u>\$1,250,000</u>

This request will allow the Department of Commerce to construct the Wine Tourism Facility located in Franklin County and allow for any necessary personal services and operating expenses of the facility.

Please amend SECTION 27. APPROPRIATION – RURAL SERVICES DIVISION – STATE OPERATIONS as follows:

ITEM NO.		FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023
(07)	COUNTY FAIR IMPROVEMENT GRANTS	<del>100,000</del>
	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<del>\$1,785,590</del> <u>\$1,685,590</u>

Please delete SECTION 47. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. COUNTY FAIR GRANTS and renumber accordingly.

These requests will remove the County Fair Improvement Grants appropriation and special language as the program has transferred to the Department of Agriculture as authorized by Ark. Code Ann. § 19-5-1272.

Please amend SECTION 29. APPROPRIATION – ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION- RURAL SERVICES-FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM as follows and renumber accordingly.

SECTION 29. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION - RURAL SERVICES - FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for grants and operating expenses for the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Education Program by the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023
(XX) <u>MAINT. &amp; GEN. OPERATION</u>	
(A) <u>OPER. EXPENSE</u>	<u>\$0</u>
(B) <u>CONF. &amp; TRAVEL</u>	<u>0</u>
(C) <u>PROF. FEES</u>	<u>0</u>
(D) <u>CAP. OUTLAY</u>	<u>50,000</u>
(E) <u>DATA PROC.</u>	<u>0</u>
 <u>TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED</u>	 <u>\$850,000</u>

This request will allow the Rural Services Division of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission to purchase vehicles for grant administration of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Education Program. This will be funded by administrative fees received for the program by the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission.

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Please amend SECTION 36. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. FOREIGN OFFICE OPERATIONS as follows:

SECTION 36. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. FOREIGN OFFICE OPERATIONS. The Arkansas Economic Development Commission is hereby authorized to enter into contractual arrangements with private and/or public companies, corporations, individuals or organizations for the purpose of operating foreign offices which shall only (i) provide export trade assistance to Arkansas-based businesses, (ii) facilitate the repatriation to Arkansas of manufacturing businesses operating overseas, and (iii) encourage direct investment in Arkansas of foreign companies that are not state-owned or controlled. Arkansas Code 15-4-210 shall not be deemed restrictive in its language so as to preclude the use of standard Professional Services Contracts for the operation of the foreign offices and/or payment of such contracts from the special line items as established by legislative appropriation for the operation of said foreign offices.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2021~~ 2022, through June 30, ~~2022~~ 2023.

This will amend special language to clarify the permitted functions of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission's foreign offices.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Asa Hutchinson