

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

SENATE BILL 150

By: Joint Budget Committee

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES
AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR TRIAL COURT
ADMINISTRATORS, THE OFFICIAL COURT REPORTERS OF THE
CIRCUIT COURTS, JUVENILE PROBATION AND INTAKE
OFFICERS AND DRUG COURT JUVENILE PROBATION AND INTAKE
OFFICERS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF
THE COURTS - COURT PERSONNEL
APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2017-2018 FISCAL
YEAR.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATORS. There is
hereby established for the Administrative Office of the Courts - Trial Court
Administrators for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the following maximum number of
regular employees.

		Maximum Annual	
		Maximum	Salary Rate
		No. of	Fiscal Year
Item	Class		
No.	Code Title	Employees	2017-2018
(1)	Q226C TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR	<u>122</u>	GRADE C117
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	122	



SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATORS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the Trial Court Administrative Assistant Fund, for personal services, Trial Court Administrator Substitutes expenses and Trial Court Administrators expenses of the Trial Court Administrators of the Circuit Courts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2017-2018</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$5,485,409
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	1,860,617
(03) TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR EXPENSES	175,000
(04) TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR SUBSTITUTES	<u>175,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$7,696,026</u></u>

SECTION 3. REGULAR SALARIES - COURT REPORTERS. There is hereby established for the Administrative Office of the Courts - Official Court Reporters of the Circuit Courts for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item	Class	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2017-2018
<u>No.</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Employees</u>
(1)	Q227C	COURT REPORTER	<u>119</u> GRADE C119
		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	119

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - COURT REPORTERS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the Court Reporter's Fund, for personal services, expenses allowance, indigent transcripts and court reporter substitutes of the Official Court Reporters of the Circuit Courts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
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<u>NO.</u>	<u>2017-2018</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$6,408,289
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	2,075,241
(03) EXPENSES ALLOWANCE	350,000
(04) INDIGENT TRANSCRIPTS	600,000
(05) COURT REPORTER SUBSTITUTES	<u>375,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$9,808,530</u></u>

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - JUVENILE PROBATION & INTAKE OFFICERS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for reimbursement of a portion of the salaries of full-time juvenile probation and intake officers in accordance with Arkansas Code 16-13-327 and Arkansas Code 16-13-328 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2017-2018</u>
(01) JUVENILE PROBATION & INTAKE OFFICERS	<u><u>\$3,582,810</u></u>

SECTION 6. REGULAR SALARIES - DRUG COURT JUVENILE PROBATION & INTAKE OFFICERS. There is hereby established for the Administrative Office of the Courts - Drug Court Juvenile Probation & Intake Officers for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

			Maximum Annual
			Salary Rate
Item	Class	No. of	Fiscal Year
<u>No.</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Employees</u>
(1)	Q231C	DRUG COURT JUV PROB & INTAKE OFF	<u>13</u>
		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	13

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - DRUG COURT JUVENILE PROBATION & INTAKE OFFICERS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the Drug Court Juvenile Probation & Intake Officers for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
NO.	2017-2018
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$434,634
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	164,228
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	50,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	2,500
(C) PROF. FEES	35,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$686,362</u></u>

SECTION 8. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. AOC RESPONSIBILITY FOR COURT REPORTERS AND TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATORS.

(a) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall be responsible for the financial oversight of the Official Court Reporters of the Circuit Courts and Trial Court Administrators, which shall include but not be limited to biennial and annual budget requests, all budgeting activities, monitoring expenses, travel, substitute expenses, indigent transcript payments and to ensure projected annual expenditures do not exceed total available funding.

(b) The Administrative Office of the Courts with assistance from the Arkansas Judicial Council shall establish an official procedure or rules for all new hires, terminations and salary adjustments for Trial Court Administrators and Official Court Reporters. The official procedures or rules shall be implemented prior to July 1, 2015 and shall be administered for all Trial Court Administrators and Official Court Reporters.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~ 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

SECTION 9. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. FUNDING FROM THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE FUND.

(a) (i) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall be responsible for requesting and verifying the need for any additional appropriation, any

1 position change level, and any increase in the Administration of Justice Fund
 2 Allocation Section as authorized annually through special language in the
 3 Department of Finance and Administration's Disbursing Act, for the Trial
 4 Court Administrators and Official Court Reporters.

5 (ii) Any annual or biennial request for an increase in the
 6 Administration of Justice Fund allocation section for Trial Court
 7 Administrators and/or Official Court Reporters shall not exceed the total or
 8 projected total revenues available for the Trial Court Administrator Fund or
 9 the Court Reporter's Fund from the Administration of Justice Fund as
 10 determined by the Administrative Office of the Courts with assistance from
 11 the Department of Finance and Administration.

12 (b) (i) During a fiscal year the Administrative Office of the Courts
 13 shall not approve any change level in salary, operating expense and other
 14 distributions for Trial Court Administrators which will exceed actual or
 15 projected fund balances in the Trial Court Administrator Fund.

16 (ii) During a fiscal year the Administrative Office of the Courts
 17 shall not approve any change level in salary, operating expense and other
 18 distributions for Court Reporters which will exceed actual or projected fund
 19 balances in the Court Reporter's Fund.

20 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~
 21 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

22
 23 SECTION 10. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS
 24 CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRIAL
 25 COURT ADMINISTRATOR EMPLOYMENT. In the event that any Trial Court
 26 Administrator terminates employment for any reason and is eligible for the
 27 payment of accumulated annual leave, the employment date for the new employee
 28 shall be delayed and the position shall remain vacant for the period of time
 29 required to account for the cost of the payment of accumulated annual leave.

30 The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1,
 31 ~~2016~~ 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

32
 33 SECTION 11. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds
 34 authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency
 35 and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and
 36 the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and

1 Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary
2 Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal
3 control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by
4 the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be
5 strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

6
7 SECTION 12. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General
8 Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations
9 contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for
10 which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive
11 Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget
12 manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or
13 summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative
14 Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

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16 SECTION 13. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
17 General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits
18 the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the
19 effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2017 is essential to the operation of
20 the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in
21 the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the
22 effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2017 could work irreparable harm
23 upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental
24 programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act
25 being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health
26 and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2017.