

Stricken language will be deleted and underlined language will be added.
Act 158 of the Fiscal Session

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Fiscal Session, 2024

As Engrossed: S4/30/24
A Bill

SENATE BILL 4

By: Joint Budget Committee

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, THE BUREAU OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH, AND THE INTERIM COMMITTEES OF THE ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE BUREAU OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - OPERATIONS. There is hereby established for the Bureau of Legislative Research of the Legislative Council for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual
				Salary Rate Fiscal Year
				2024-2025
(1)	Q030U	DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF LEGIS RESEARCH	1	GRADE SE05
(2)	Q029U	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	4	GRADE SE04
(3)	Q061N	BLR COUNSEL	1	GRADE SE03
(4)	Q014N	BLR ADMINISTRATOR	10	GRADE SE02



(5)	Q236C SR APPLICATIONS PROGRAMMER II	6	GRADE IT10
(6)	Q237C SR NETWORK SPECIALIST II	4	GRADE IT10
(7)	Q285C PC PROCUREMENT SUPPORT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE IT08
(8)	Q286C SENIOR PC SUPPORT SPECIALIST III	4	GRADE IT07
(9)	Q262C BLR PRODUCTION ASSISTANT	1	GRADE IT04
(10)	Q224C ASSETS MANAGER	1	GRADE IT03
(11)	Q272C LEGISLATIVE ECONOMIST	1	GRADE GS15
(12)	Q068N LEGAL EDITOR SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE GS14
(13)	Q281C SENIOR LEGISLATIVE ATTORNEY III	23	GRADE GS14
(14)	Q287C SENIOR LEGAL EDITOR III	7	GRADE GS13
(15)	Q282C SENIOR LEGISLATIVE ANALYST III	33	GRADE GS13
(16)	Q283C BLR PROGRAM DEV & COMPLIANCE ANALYST II	1	GRADE GS10
(17)	Q284C LEGISLATIVE ADMIN SERVICES ANALYST III	3	GRADE GS10
(18)	Q067C ADMIN ASSIST TO DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS09
(19)	Q077C ADMIN ASSIST TO AD	4	GRADE GS08
(20)	Q065C OFFICE SERVICES SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE GS08
(21)	Q235C ADMIN ASSIST TO ADMINISTRATOR	8	GRADE GS07
(22)	Q118C FACILITIES COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS07
(23)	Q110C LEGISLATIVE ADMIN ASSISTANT II	16	GRADE GS06
(24)	Q131C BLR SUPPORT SPECIALIST	<u>1</u>	GRADE GS04
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	134	

SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP - OPERATIONS. There is hereby authorized, for the Bureau of Legislative Research of the Legislative Council for the 2024-2025 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: thirty-one (31) 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.

SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Bureau of Legislative Research of the Legislative Council, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for personal services, operating expenses, contingency, committee rooms, and construction and capital improvements of the Bureau of Legislative Research and the

Legislative Council for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$11,860,244
(02) EXTRA HELP	150,000
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	3,827,527
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	2,083,686
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	218,002
(C) PROF. FEES	298,889
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	400,000
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(05) CONSTRUCTION/CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	50,000
(06) CONTINGENCY	1,393,480
(07) COMMITTEE ROOMS	<u>205,063</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$20,486,891</u>

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - INTERIM COMMITTEE STUDY EXPENSES. There is hereby appropriated, to the Bureau of Legislative Research of the Legislative Council Disbursing Officer, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for study expenses of the Ad Interim Committees of the Arkansas General Assembly for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025
(01) INTERIM COMMITTEE STUDY EXPENSES	<u>\$271,060</u>

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - INTERIM COMMITTEE EXPENSES. There is hereby appropriated, to the Bureau of Legislative Research of the Legislative Council Disbursing Officer, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for paying per diem, expenses and mileage to members of the Arkansas General Assembly attending regular and special meetings and other committee related activities of the Ad Interim Committees of the Arkansas General Assembly, and for out-of-state travel expenses for committee staff as approved by the appropriate committee for the fiscal year ending June 30,

2025, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR <u>2024-2025</u>
(01) PER DIEM, EXPENSES, AND MILEAGE FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AD INTERIM COMMITTEES	\$1,419,199
(02) OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL OF INTERIM COMMITTEE MEMBERS & COMMITTEE STAFF WHO ARE AUTHORIZED BY THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE	<u>277,197</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$1,696,396</u></u>

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - ENERGY COUNCIL. There is hereby appropriated, to the Bureau of Legislative Research of the Legislative Council Disbursing Officer, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for paying expenses of members of the Arkansas General Assembly attending meetings of the Energy Council and for other associated expenses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR <u>2024-2025</u>
(01) PAYMENT OF EXPENSES OF MEMBERS AND OTHER EXPENSES	<u><u>\$65,806</u></u>

SECTION 7. REAPPROPRIATION. There is hereby appropriated, to the Bureau of Legislative Research of the Legislative Council, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, from the balance of the appropriation remaining on June 30, 2024 in Sections 3 and 7 of Act 120 of 2023, there to be used to the same purposes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, in a sum not to exceed..... \$2,000,000.

SECTION 8. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. CLASSIFICATION UTILIZATION. The Bureau of Legislative Research may utilize, at the discretion of the Director of the Bureau of Legislative Research, the

following classifications as necessary. The use of these classifications shall not be considered as increasing the number of positions authorized in this act, only as a temporary reclassification or cross grade of a position.

CLASS		
CODE	TITLE	GRADE
Q221C	SENIOR LEGISLATIVE ATTORNEY II	GS13
Q234C	SENIOR LEGAL EDITOR II	GS12
Q006C	SENIOR LEGISLATIVE ANALYST II	GS12
Q220C	SENIOR LEGISLATIVE ATTORNEY	GS12
Q223C	SENIOR LEGAL EDITOR	GS11
Q032C	SENIOR LEGISLATIVE ANALYST	GS11
Q007C	LEGISLATIVE ATTORNEY II	GS11
Q073C	LEGAL EDITOR III	GS10
Q064C	LEGISLATIVE ANALYST III	GS10
Q046C	LEGISLATIVE ATTORNEY	GS10
Q232C	BLR PROGRAM DEVELOP & COMPLIANCE ANALYST	GS09
Q222C	LEGAL EDITOR II	GS09
Q197C	LEGISLATIVE ADMIN SERVICES ANALYST II	GS09
Q079C	LEGISLATIVE ANALYST II	GS09
Q240C	LEGAL EDITOR	GS08
Q239C	LEGISLATIVE ANALYST	GS08
Q198C	LEGISLATIVE ADMIN SERVICES ANALYST	GS07
Q128C	LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	GS05
Q241C	SR. APPLICATIONS PROGRAMMER	IT09
Q242C	SR. NETWORK SPECIALIST	IT09
Q243C	APPLICATIONS PROGRAMMER II	IT08
Q244C	NETWORK SPECIALIST II	IT08
Q246C	APPLICATIONS PROGRAMMER	IT07
Q247C	NETWORK SPECIALIST	IT07
Q238C	SENIOR PC SUPPORT SPECIALIST II	IT06
Q245C	SR. PC SUPPORT SPECIALIST	IT05
Q271C	APPLICATIONS SUPPORT SPECIALIST	IT05
Q063C	PC SUPPORT SPECIALIST II	IT04
Q078C	PC SUPPORT SPECIALIST	IT03
Q127C	HELP DESK COORDINATOR	IT02

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2023~~ 2024 through June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025.

SECTION 9. SPECIAL LANGUAGE – CODE AMENDMENT. Arkansas Code § 10-3-303(j), concerning the Bureau of Legislative Research, is amended to read as follows:

(j)(1) Any adjustments in annual salary rates for employees of the bureau, including without limitation labor market adjustments, merit pay adjustments, or employee retention or recruitment requirements shall be made at the discretion of the director.

~~(2)(A) Salary payments under this subsection shall not be restricted to maximum amounts authorized by law.~~

~~(B) If salary adjustments under this subsection exceed the maximum line item amount authorized by law for a position, the amount shall be paid to the employee as a lump-sum payment.~~

(3) In order that exceptionally well-qualified personnel may be recruited and retained, Bureau of Legislative Research may exceed the maximum salary levels by no more than twenty percent (20%) for no more than one-third (1/3) of the positions authorized in its operative appropriation act after receiving approval from the:

(A) Legislative Council; or

(B) Joint Budget Committee, if the General Assembly is in session.

SECTION 10. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

SECTION 11. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General

Assembly that any funds disbursed under the authority of the appropriations contained in this act shall be in compliance with the stated reasons for which this act was adopted, as evidenced by the Agency Requests, Executive Recommendations and Legislative Recommendations contained in the budget manuals prepared by the Department of Finance and Administration, letters, or summarized oral testimony in the official minutes of the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee which relate to its passage and adoption.

SECTION 12. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly, that the Constitution of the State of Arkansas prohibits the appropriation of funds for more than a one (1) year period; that the effectiveness of this Act on July 1, 2024 is essential to the operation of the agency for which the appropriations in this Act are provided, and that in the event of an extension of the legislative session, the delay in the effective date of this Act beyond July 1, 2024 could work irreparable harm upon the proper administration and provision of essential governmental programs. Therefore, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall be in full force and effect from and after July 1, 2024.

/s/ Joint Budget Committee

APPROVED: 5/5/24