

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: S4/3/25

A Bill

SENATE BILL 37

By: Joint Budget Committee

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES – SHARED SERVICES. There is hereby established for the Department of Commerce for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Class Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Maximum No. of Employees</i>	<i>Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2025-2026</i>
(1)	SC002	ACOM SECRETARY OF COMMERCE	1	GRADE SE05
(2)	G329C	CHIEF WORKFORCE OFFICER	1	GRADE SE04
(3)	N263N	COMMERCE CHIEF OF STAFF	1	GRADE SE03
(4)	A152C	ACOM CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER	1	GRADE SE01
(5)	G330C	ACOM CHIEF LEGAL COUNSEL II	1	GRADE SE01
(6)	D150C	ACOM CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER	1	GRADE IT12
(7)	D002N	STATE DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR LEAD	1	GRADE IT11



(8)	D001C STATE DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR	2	GRADE IT09
(9)	D007C INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGER	1	GRADE IT08
(10)	D029C SENIOR GIS ANALYST	1	GRADE IT07
(11)	D063C COMPUTER SUPPORT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE IT05
(12)	D064C WEBSITE DEVELOPER	1	GRADE IT04
(13)	N084N ACOM AEDC MRKT & COMM. DIR	1	GRADE GS15
(14)	N066N ACOM CHIEF COMM & LEG. AFFAIRS	2	GRADE GS14
(15)	A014C FISCAL DIVISION MANAGER	2	GRADE GS12
(16)	G026N ACOM AEDC ASSISTANT DIR. MGMT SVS	1	GRADE GS12
(17)	G030N ACOM AEDC ASST DIR OF STEM EDUCATION	1	GRADE GS12
(18)	P007N ACOM DWS DIR. OF COMMUNICATIONS	1	GRADE GS12
(19)	P078C ACOM ARS DIR. OF COMMUNICATIONS	1	GRADE GS12
(20)	R006C HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR	3	GRADE GS12
(21)	R013C AGENCY HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER	1	GRADE GS11
(22)	A040C ACOM ADFA FISCAL PROGRAM MANAGER	1	GRADE GS10
(23)	G076C ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES MANAGER	1	GRADE GS10
(24)	X009C ACOM INSURANCE DEPT DIR OF SEC. OPS	1	GRADE GS10
(25)	A038C FISCAL SUPPORT MANAGER	1	GRADE GS09
(26)	A052C ACCOUNTING COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS09
(27)	A060C SENIOR AUDITOR	1	GRADE GS08
(28)	A082C ACCOUNTANT II	4	GRADE GS08
(29)	R014C PERSONNEL MANAGER	3	GRADE GS08
(30)	A065C PAYROLL SERVICES COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS07
(31)	C114C ACOM EXECUTIVE ASST TO SECRETARY	1	GRADE GS07
(32)	E040C STAFF DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS07
(33)	G148C ENERGY PROGRAM MANAGER	1	GRADE GS07
(34)	G163C ACOM REHAB PROGRAM COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS07
(35)	G181C ACOM DWS PROGRAM MONITOR	1	GRADE GS07
(36)	R024C ASSISTANT PERSONNEL MANAGER	2	GRADE GS07
(37)	A080C ACOM FINANCE AUTHORITY SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS06
(38)	C037C ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	1	GRADE GS06
(39)	P027C PUBLIC INFORMATION SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS06
(40)	R025C HUMAN RESOURCES ANALYST	5	GRADE GS06
(41)	R027C BUDGET SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS06
(42)	R033C BENEFITS ANALYST	1	GRADE GS05
(43)	R036C HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST	<u>2</u>	GRADE GS04

MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - SHARED SERVICES PAYING ACCOUNT. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the paying account as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Commerce - Shared Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$4,400,000
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	1,502,564
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	500,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	200,000
(C) PROF. FEES	100,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	100,000
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$6,802,564</u></u>

SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS WINE PRODUCERS COUNCIL. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for miscellaneous grants and expenses of the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Wine Producers Council for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
(01) ARKANSAS WINE PRODUCERS COUNCIL	<u><u>\$5,000</u></u>

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS WINE 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 associated with the wine tourism facility in Franklin County, Arkansas for the fiscal year ending June 30,

2026, the following:

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

SECTION 5. REGULAR SALARIES. There is hereby established for the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2025-2026
(1)	U055U	ACOM AEDC DIRECTOR	1	GRADE SE04
(2)	U063U	ACOM CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER	1	GRADE SE01
(3)	N214N	ACOM AEDC EXEC VP GLOBAL BUSINESS	1	GRADE SE01
(4)	D029C	SENIOR GIS ANALYST	1	GRADE IT07
(5)	N062N	ACOM AEDC BUSINESS DEV DIV DIR	1	GRADE GS15
(6)	N061N	ACOM AEDC BUSINESS FINANCE DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS15
(7)	N225N	ACOM AEDC EXEC VP & GEN COUNSEL	1	GRADE GS15
(8)	N085N	ACOM AEDC DIR TECH & ENTREPRENEURSHIP	1	GRADE GS14
(9)	G294C	ACOM AEDC SENIOR COUNSEL	1	GRADE GS14
(10)	N059N	ACOM AEDC TRAINING DIVISION DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS14
(11)	B139C	ACOM AEDC DIRECTOR OF EPSCOR	2	GRADE GS13
(12)	B140C	ACOM AEDC MANUFACTURING SOLUTIONS DIR	1	GRADE GS13
(13)	N196N	MILITARY AFFAIRS DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS13
(14)	G034N	ACOM AEDC ASST DIR SALES AND MARKETING	1	GRADE GS12
(15)	G245C	ACOM AEDC DIR COMMUNITY DEV & IMPROVE	1	GRADE GS12
(16)	G014C	ACOM AEDC DIR OF COMMUNITY DEV	1	GRADE GS12
(17)	B018N	ACOM AEDC FIELD ENGINEER	3	GRADE GS12
(18)	G035N	ACOM AEDC SALES AND MARKETING SPEC	1	GRADE GS12
(19)	G273C	ACOM AEDC SENIOR PROJECT CONSULTANT	4	GRADE GS12
(20)	G015C	ACOM AEDC SMALL/MINORITY BUSINESS DIR	1	GRADE GS12
(21)	U099U	ACOM DIRECTOR OF RURAL SERVICES	1	GRADE GS12

(22)	G025C ATTORNEY SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE GS12
(23)	B016C ACOM AEDC ASSISTANT DIRECTOR EPSCOR	1	GRADE GS11
(24)	P076C ACOM AEDC DIGITAL MARKETING DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS11
(25)	G062C ACOM AEDC PROJECT CONSULTANT	26	GRADE GS11
(26)	G048C ACOM AEDC STRATEGIC PLAN ASST DIR	1	GRADE GS11
(27)	A052C ACCOUNTING COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS09
(28)	P004C PUBLIC INFORMATION MANAGER	1	GRADE GS09
(29)	R021C BUDGET ANALYST	1	GRADE GS08
(30)	A116C BUSINESS OPERATIONS MANAGER	1	GRADE GS08
(31)	G126C FINANCE PROGRAM COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS08
(32)	A041C PROGRAM FISCAL MANAGER	1	GRADE GS08
(33)	E023C TRAINING PROJECT MANAGER	2	GRADE GS08
(34)	NG159C DEPARTMENT BUSINESS COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS07
(35)	C010C EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS07
(36)	G147C GRANTS COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS07
(37)	C037C ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	2	GRADE GS06
(38)	R022C BENEFITS COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS06
(39)	P027C PUBLIC INFORMATION SPECIALIST	2	GRADE GS06
(40)	B076C RESEARCH PROJECT ANALYST	1	GRADE GS06
(41)	C056C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST III	<u>6</u>	GRADE GS04
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	70	

SECTION 6. EXTRA HELP. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission for the 2025-2026 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: *seven (7)* 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 7. APPROPRIATION - STATE OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission Fund Account, for personal services, operating expenses, grants and aid, and state matching funds of the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - State

Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$3,967,320
(02) EXTRA HELP	50,000
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	1,366,101
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	1,450,650
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	141,486
(C) PROF. FEES	1,765,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(05) ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE/REGIONALISM GRANTS	877,588
(06) GLOBAL BUSINESS INITIATIVES	900,000
(07) MILITARY AFFAIRS GRANT PROGRAM	750,000
(08) INDUSTRY TRAINING PROGRAM	<u>1,714,800</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$12,982,945</u>

SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE (CDBG) - FEDERAL.

There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Community Assistance (CDBG) - Federal for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$382,165
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	136,675
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	60,600
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	25,000
(C) PROF. FEES	70,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0

(E) DATA PROC.	0
(04) GRANTS/AIDS - CDBG	48,261,988
(05) STORM RECOVERY GRANTS	<u>7,579,614</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$56,516,042</u></u>

SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - CDBG DISASTER RECOVERY. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for addressing long term recovery and restoration of infrastructure, housing and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas of the State for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
(01) CDBG DISASTER RECOVERY	<u><u>\$8,933,441</u></u>

SECTION 10. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS ACCELERATION FUND. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Arkansas Acceleration Fund, for grants and incentives to accelerate the economy of the State through technology and knowledge-based development of of the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Arkansas Acceleration Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
(01) ACCELERATION GRANTS & INCENTIVES	<u><u>\$5,000,000</u></u>

SECTION 11. APPROPRIATION - SUPER PROJECTS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Economic Development Superprojects Project Fund, for Super Projects as defined by Amendment 82 to the Arkansas Constitution of the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Super Projects for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) SUPER PROJECTS	<u>\$6,000,000</u>

SECTION 12. APPROPRIATION - NEW MARKETS PERFORMANCE PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the New Markets Performance Guarantee Fund, for refunds and reimbursements of performance program application fees of the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - New Markets Performance Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) REFUNDS/REIMBURSEMENTS	<u>\$142,266</u>

SECTION 13. APPROPRIATION - QUICK ACTION CLOSING FUND. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Economic Development Incentive Quick Action Closing Fund, for incentives to attract new business and economic development to the State by the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Quick Action Closing Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) QUICK ACTION CLOSING GRANTS	<u>\$75,000,000</u>

SECTION 14. APPROPRIATION - DIVISION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - STATE OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission Fund Account, for personal services, operating expenses and grants and aid by the Division of Science and Technology of the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - State Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>

(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$393,695
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	147,361
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	0
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(04) GRANTS & AID - ARKANSAS RESEARCH MATCH	1,092,653
(05) TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT	156,975
(06) SEED CAPITAL INVESTMENTS	292,653
(07) ARKANSAS ACCELERATION FUND PROGRAM	<u>11,600,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$13,683,337</u></u>

SECTION 15. APPROPRIATION - DIVISION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - SEED CAPITAL INVESTMENT - CASH. 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 investments in technology based businesses by the Division of Science and Technology of the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Seed Capital Investment - Cash for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) INVESTMENTS	<u><u>\$1,040,000</u></u>

SECTION 16. APPROPRIATION - RURAL SERVICES DIVISION - STATE OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission Fund Account, for personal services, operating expenses and grants and aid by the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Rural Services Division - State Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>

(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$154,934
(02) EXTRA HELP	2,000
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	63,022
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	72,038
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	4,100
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(05) GRANTS & AID -RURAL COMMUNITY GRANTS	500,000
(06) RURAL FIRE PROTECTION GRANTS	<u>900,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$1,696,094</u></u>

SECTION 17. APPROPRIATION - RURAL SERVICES DIVISION - CONFERENCE CASH. 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 conference expenses of the Rural Services Division of the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Conference Cash for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) CONFERENCE EXPENSES	<u><u>\$150,000</u></u>

SECTION 18. 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, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>

(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$0
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	50,000
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(02) FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION	
EDUCATION GRANTS AND AID	<u>800,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$850,000</u></u>

SECTION 19. APPROPRIATION - MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE LOAN MOBILIZATION. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission, to be payable from the Minority and Women-Owned Business Loan Mobilization Revolving Fund, for promotion and development of minority and women-owned business enterprises in the state, increasing the ability of minority and women-owned business enterprises to compete for state contracts, and sustaining the economic growth of minority and women-owned businesses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) MINORITY & WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS	
ENTERPRISE MOBILIZATION LOAN	<u><u>\$500,000</u></u>

SECTION 20. APPROPRIATION - RURAL SERVICES DIVISION - LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANTS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Rural Services Division, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for grants to law enforcement agencies and associations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) GRANTS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES	<u><u>\$5,000,000</u></u>

SECTION 21. APPROPRIATION - DIVISION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - EPSCOR - FEDERAL. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Division of Science and Technology, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for strengthening research and education in science and engineering in Arkansas for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$252,663
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	135,519
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	254,080
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	305,735
(C) PROF. FEES	447,470
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(04) GRANTS AND AID - RESEARCH & EDUCATION	5,000,000
(05) INDIRECT FACILITIES AND ADMIN	34,502
(06) EXTERNAL EVALUATORS	<u>400,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$6,829,969</u></u>

SECTION 22. APPROPRIATION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE - PAYROLL REBATE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Economic Development Incentive Fund for financial incentives to companies locating a new facility or expanding an existing facility with the State of Arkansas for companies that hire and maintain specified levels of employment for the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
(01) GRANTS AND AID - PAYROLL REBATE	<u><u>\$37,500,000</u></u>

SECTION 23. APPROPRIATION - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE - RECYCLE TAX CREDIT. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission, to be payable from the Economic Development Incentive Fund to provide recycling tax credits in accordance with Arkansas Code 26-51-506 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
(01) GRANTS AND AID - RECYCLING TAX CREDITS	<u>\$42,000,000</u>

SECTION 24. APPROPRIATION - RURAL SERVICES DIVISION - ANIMAL RESCUE AND SHELTER GRANTS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Rural Services Division, to be payable from the Animal Rescue and Shelter Trust Fund, for grants to a county or municipality based only on the infrastructure needs for animal rescues or animal shelters for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
(01) ANIMAL RESCUE AND SHELTER GRANTS	<u>\$50,000"</u>

SECTION 25. APPROPRIATION - RURAL SERVICES DIVISION - COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Economic Development Commission - Rural Services Division - Community Assistance Grant Program, to be payable from the paying account as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for community assistance grants for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
(01) COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM	<u>\$10,000,000"</u>

SECTION 26. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.
REALLOCATION OF RESOURCES - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. Upon determination by the

Secretary of the Department of Commerce that a reallocation of resources for purposes of reorganization or consolidation of administrative functions within or between divisions is necessary for efficient and effective operations of the department, the Secretary, with approval of the Governor and prior approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, shall have the authority to request from the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, a transfer of positions, appropriations, programs, and funds between divisions or other budgetary units of the department. The transfers of positions, programs, or activities shall be used for those purposes for which the appropriations were approved by the General Assembly. Upon approval by the Governor, the Secretary of the Department of Commerce shall request to the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, a transfer of positions, programs, funds, appropriations, and/or line-item appropriations within or between existing and newly created divisions, offices, sections and/or units. The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall then initiate the necessary transfer documents to reflect transfers upon the fiscal records of the State Treasurer, the State Auditor, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, and Divisions of the Commerce Department. Provided, however, that the Secretary shall be limited to submitting no more than two (2) individual transaction transfer requests during any fiscal year.

Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of appropriation and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for a state agency and the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by amendment to the Revenue Stabilization law. Further, the General Assembly has determined that the Department of Commerce may operate more efficiently if some flexibility is provided to the Department of Commerce under the Reallocation of Resources provisions herein. Therefore, it is both necessary and appropriate that the General Assembly maintain oversight by requiring prior approval of the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee as provided by this section. The requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is not a severable part of this section. If the requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is ruled unconstitutional by a court jurisdiction, this entire section is void.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

SECTION 27. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. FUND TRANSFER PROVISION. As requested from time to time by the Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, the Chief Fiscal Officer may transfer on his books and those of the State Treasurer and the Auditor of the State, the sum not to exceed five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission Fund Account to the Minority and Women-Owned Business Loan Mobilization Revolving Fund, to provide funds for the Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Loan Mobilization appropriation herein.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

SECTION 28. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. CARRY FORWARD – MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS LOAN MOBILIZATION REVOLVING FUND. Any unexpended balance of funds for the Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Loan Mobilization appropriation which remain at the close of each state fiscal year shall be carried forward to the next state fiscal year to be used for the same intent and purposes as set forth in law.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

SECTION 29. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER PROVISION – STATE OPERATIONS. After receiving approval from the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and prior review by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, the Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission is authorized to transfer appropriation from any line item appropriation authorized in the State Operations Section of this Act to any other line item authorized in the State Operations Section of this Act.

Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of appropriation and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year

is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for a state agency and the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by amendment to the Revenue Stabilization Law. Further, the General Assembly has determined that the Arkansas Economic Development Commission may operate more efficiently if some flexibility is provided to the Arkansas Economic Development Commission authorizing broad powers under this Section. Therefore, it is both necessary and appropriate that the General Assembly maintain oversight by requiring prior review of the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee as provided by this section. The requirement of review by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is not a severable part of this section. If the requirement of review by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is ruled unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, this entire section is void.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

SECTION 30. 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 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, ~~2024~~ 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

SECTION 31. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. RURAL

DEVELOPMENT. From the funds appropriated for Community Development Grants within the Community Development Program in this Act for Community Assistance (CDBG) - Federal, the Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) shall allocate at least \$500,000 per fiscal year to the Rural Development Set-Aside from the annual Community Development Block Grant, as defined in AEDC's Consolidated Plan filed with the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. Funds allocated to the Rural Development Set-Aside are to be used exclusively for grants to rural communities as defined in the Consolidated Plan.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

SECTION 32. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. GRANT REVIEW. The Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) shall review all applications for grant funds and shall certify those applications eligible for grant funds under AEDC and federal guidelines. The Rural Services Division of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission alone shall recommend which grant applications will be funded, and AEDC shall disburse grant funds from the Rural Development Set-Aside to those applicants receiving final approval by the Rural Services Division of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission. AEDC and the Rural Services Division of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission shall promulgate rules and regulations governing the application for and disbursement of grant funds from the Rural Development Set-Aside, and an annual report of the disposition of these grant funds shall be made to the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

SECTION 33. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER PROVISION - COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE (CDBG) - FEDERAL. After receiving approval from the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and prior approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, the Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission is authorized to transfer appropriation from

any line item appropriation authorized in the Community Assistance (CDBG) - Federal Section of this Act to any other line item authorized in the Community Assistance (CDBG) - Federal Section of this Act.

Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of appropriation and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for a state agency and the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by amendment to the Revenue Stabilization law. Further, the General Assembly has determined that the Arkansas Economic Development Commission may operate more efficiently if some flexibility is provided to the Arkansas Economic Development Commission authorizing broad powers under this Section. Therefore, it is both necessary and appropriate that the General Assembly maintain oversight by requiring prior approval of the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee as provided by this section. The requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is not a severable part of this section. If the requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is ruled unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, this entire section is void.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

SECTION 34. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. FLEXIBILITY RESTRICTIONS. The transfer flexibility provided to the Arkansas Economic Development Commission within this Act relating to the appropriation in the Community Assistance (CDBG) - Federal Section shall be used only when necessary to carry out the Community Development Block Grant Program and shall require approval by the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee.

Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of appropriation and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for a state agency and the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by amendment to the Revenue Stabilization law. Further, the General Assembly

has determined that the Arkansas Economic Development Commission may operate more efficiently if some flexibility is provided to the Arkansas Economic Development Commission authorizing broad powers under this Section. Therefore, it is both necessary and appropriate that the General Assembly maintain oversight by requiring prior approval of the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee as provided by this section. The requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is not a severable part of this section. If the requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is ruled unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, this entire section is void.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

SECTION 35. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS AUTHORIZED. The Arkansas Industrial and Economic Development Foundation is hereby authorized to make additional payments to the Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, from private funding sources, and upon prior approval from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, the Arkansas Industrial and Economic Development Foundation, and the Governor. Such additional payments to the Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission shall not be considered salary and shall not be deemed or construed to exceed the maximum salaries established for unclassified employees by the General Assembly. Nothing in this section may be construed to reduce or eliminate the authority granted elsewhere in the Arkansas statute for the payment of allowances or bonuses to unclassified employees.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

SECTION 36. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

CARRY FORWARD - INDUSTRY TRAINING PROGRAM. Any unexpended balance of funds for the Industry Training Program in the Arkansas Economic Development Commission Fund Account which remain at the close of each state fiscal year shall be carried forward to the next state fiscal year to be used for the

same intent and purposes as set forth in law.

Any carry forward of unexpended balance of funding as authorized herein, may be carried forward under the following conditions:

- (1) Prior to June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026 the Agency shall by written statement set forth its reason(s) for the need to carry forward said funding to the Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget;
- (2) The Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget shall report to the Arkansas Legislative Council all amounts carried forward by the September Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee meeting which report shall include the name of the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution and the amount of the funding carried forward, the program name or line item, the funding source of that appropriation and a copy of the written request set forth in (1) above;
- (3) Each Agency, Board, Commission or Institution shall provide a written report to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee containing all information set forth in item (2) above, along with a written statement as to the current status of the project, contract, purpose etc. for which the carry forward was originally requested no later than thirty (30) days prior to the time the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution presents its budget request to the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget Committee; and
- (4) Thereupon, the Department of Finance and Administration shall include all information obtained in item (3) above in the budget manuals and/or a statement of non-compliance by the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

SECTION 37. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. CARRY FORWARD – TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT. The Division of Science and Technology of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission is authorized to carry forward an amount of up to \$150,000 of any obligated but unexpended funds in the Technology Development line item in the Division of Science and Technology - State Operations Section of this Act for basic or applied research grants which remains at the end of the fiscal year ~~2025~~ 2026 to be used for the same purpose.

Any carry forward of unexpended balance of funding as authorized herein, may be carried forward under the following conditions:

- (1) Prior to June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026 the Agency shall by written statement set forth its reason(s) for the need to carry forward said funding to the Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget;
- (2) The Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget shall report to the Arkansas Legislative Council all amounts carried forward by the September Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee meeting which report shall include the name of the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution and the amount of the funding carried forward, the program name or line item, the funding source of that appropriation and a copy of the written request set forth in (1) above;
- (3) Each Agency, Board, Commission or Institution shall provide a written report to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee containing all information set forth in item (2) above, along with a written statement as to the current status of the project, contract, purpose etc. for which the carry forward was originally requested no later than thirty (30) days prior to the time the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution presents its budget request to the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget Committee; and
- (4) Thereupon, the Department of Finance and Administration shall include all information obtained in item (3) above in the budget manuals and/or a statement of non-compliance by the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1 ~~2024~~ 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

SECTION 38. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

APPROPRIATION AND FUND TRANSFERS. After receiving approval from the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, the Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission is authorized to transfer appropriation and funds from the Division of Science and Technology State Operations - Arkansas Acceleration Fund Programs line item within the Arkansas Economic Development Commission Fund Account to the Arkansas Acceleration Fund. The total of all transfers shall not exceed \$3,500,000.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~

2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

SECTION 39. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

PROMOTIONAL ITEMS. The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall establish, upon request from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, a special appropriation line item to be used in the acquisition of promotional items. When the Arkansas Economic Development Commission wishes to transfer from its operating expenses to promotional items, the request shall be forwarded to the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State for processing after prior approval by the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee.

Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of appropriation and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for a state agency and the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by amendment to the Revenue Stabilization Law. Further, the General Assembly has determined that the Arkansas Economic Development Commission may operate more efficiently if some flexibility is provided to the Arkansas Economic Development Commission authorizing broad powers under this Section. Therefore, it is both necessary and appropriate that the General Assembly maintain oversight by requiring prior approval of the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee as provided by this Section. The requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is not a severable part of this Section. If the requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is ruled unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, this entire section is void.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

SECTION 40. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. GRANT AWARD CRITERIA. The Rural Services Division of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission shall promulgate rules establishing the criteria to be utilized in determining to whom grants will be made under this Act. Subject to the approval of the Governor, and approval by the Arkansas Legislative

Council or the Joint Budget Committee, the Rural Services Division of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission shall distribute the grants.

Determining the maximum number of employees and the maximum amount of appropriation and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year is the prerogative of the General Assembly. This is usually accomplished by delineating such maximums in the appropriation act(s) for a state agency and the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by amendment to the Revenue Stabilization law. Further, the General Assembly has determined that the Rural Services Division of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission may operate more efficiently if some flexibility is provided to the Rural Services Division of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission authorizing broad powers under this Section. Therefore, it is both necessary and appropriate that the General Assembly maintain oversight by requiring prior approval of the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee as provided by this section. The requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is not a severable part of this section. If the requirement of approval by the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee is ruled unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, this entire section is void.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

SECTION 41. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER OF FUNDS. In the event that revenue is available for transfer to and in support of the Arkansas Acceleration Fund Act, the Executive Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission shall certify to the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State the amount needed for transfer from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission Fund Account to the Arkansas Acceleration Fund. Upon the approval of the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, the amount certified shall be transferred. The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall initiate the necessary transfer documents to reflect all such transfers upon the fiscal records of the State Auditor, the State Treasurer and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

SECTION 42. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. SHARED SERVICES.

(a)(1) The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State may create a Shared Services paying account on his or her books and on the books of the Treasurer of State and the Auditor of State for the payment of personal services and operating expenses in the Shared Services Paying Account Appropriation by the Department of Commerce.

(2) The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall direct the transfer of funds and appropriations to the Shared Services Paying Account appropriation section of this act on the books of the Treasurer of State, the Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

(3) The transfer authority provided to the department in subdivision (a)(2) of this section may be used to make transfers only within the department's appropriation act or between other appropriation acts authorized for the department.

(4) The provisions of this section shall be in effect from the date of passage through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

SECTION 43. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. CARRY FORWARD - MILITARY AFFAIRS GRANT PROGRAM. Any unexpended balance of funds allocated for the Military Affairs Grant Program in the Arkansas Economic Development Commission Fund Account which remain at the close of each state fiscal year shall be carried forward to the next state fiscal year to be used for the same intent and purposes as set forth in law. Any carry forward of unexpended balance of funding as authorized herein, may be carried forward under the following conditions:

(1) Prior to June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026 the Agency shall by written statement set forth its reason(s) for the need to carry forward said funding to the Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget;

(2) The Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget shall report to the Arkansas Legislative Council all amounts carried forward by the September Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee meeting which report shall include the name of the Agency, Board, Commission or

Institution and the amount of the funding carried forward, the program name or line item, the funding source of that appropriation and a copy of the written request set forth in (1) above;

(3) Each Agency, Board, Commission or Institution shall provide a written report to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee containing all information set forth in item (2) above, along with a written statement as to the current status of the project, contract, purpose etc. for which the carry forward was originally requested no later than thirty (30) days prior to the time the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution presents its budget request to the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget Committee; and

(4) Thereupon, the Department of Finance and Administration shall include all information obtained in item (3) above in the budget manuals and/or a statement of non-compliance by the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

SECTION 44. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. CARRY FORWARD - ARKANSAS ACCELERATION FUND PROGRAM. Any unexpended balance of funds for the Arkansas Acceleration Fund Program line item in the Division of Science and Technology - State Operations Section of this Act which remain at the close of each state fiscal year shall be carried forward to the next state fiscal year to be used for the same intent and purposes as set forth in law.

Any carry forward of unexpended balance of funding as authorized herein, may be carried forward under the following conditions:

(1) Prior to June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026 the Agency shall by written statement set forth its reasons(s) for the need to carry forward said funding to the Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget;

(2) The Department of Finance and Administration Office of Budget shall report to the Arkansas Legislative Council all amounts carried forward by the September Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee meeting, which report shall include the name of the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution and the amount of the funding carried forward, the program name or line item, the funding source of the appropriation and a copy of the

written request set forth in (1) above;

(3) Each Agency, Board, Commission or Institution shall provide a written report to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee containing all information set forth in item (2) above, along with a written statement as to the current status of the project, contract, purpose, etc. for which the carry forward was originally requested no later than thirty (30) days prior to the time the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution presents its budget request to the Arkansas Legislative Council/Joint Budget Committee; and

(4) Thereupon, the Department of Finance and Administration shall include all information obtained in item (3) above in the budget manuals and/or a statement of non-compliance by the Agency, Board, Commission or Institution.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2026.

SECTION 45. 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 46. 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 47. 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, 2025 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, 2025 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, 2025.

/s/ Joint Budget Committee

APPROVED: 4/14/25