

State of Arkansas  
95th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2025

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1259

By: Joint Budget Committee

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES  
AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS  
AND THE DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE - ARKANSAS  
BIOSCIENCES INSTITUTES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING  
JUNE 30, 2026; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AND  
THE DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE - ARKANSAS  
BIOSCIENCES INSTITUTES APPROPRIATION FOR  
THE 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS BIOSCIENCES INSTITUTE. There is hereby appropriated, to the University of Arkansas, to be payable from the Arkansas Biosciences Institute Program Account of the Tobacco Settlement Program Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the University of Arkansas - Arkansas Biosciences Institute for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
NO.	2025-2026
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$480,000
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	75,000
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	800,000



(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	1,020,563
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$2,375,563</u></u>

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE - ARKANSAS BIOSCIENCES. There is hereby appropriated, to the University of Arkansas - Division of Agriculture, to be payable from the Arkansas Biosciences Institute Program Account of the Tobacco Settlement Program Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the University of Arkansas - Division of Agriculture - Arkansas Biosciences Institute for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2025-2026</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$1,370,000
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	365,432
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	400,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	30,000
(C) PROF. FEES	100,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	150,000
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$2,415,432</u></u>

SECTION 3. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER RESTRICTIONS. The appropriations provided in this act shall not be transferred under the provisions of Arkansas Code 19-4-522, but only as provided by this act.

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

SECTION 4. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER

PROVISIONS. The state-supported institution of higher education in this act may transfer appropriations between the various line items within each appropriation contained in this appropriation act. Such transfers shall be made only after the approval of the Division of Higher Education and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, and the approval of the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee.

The General Assembly has determined that the institution in this act could be operated more efficiently if some flexibility is given to that institution and that flexibility is being accomplished by providing authority to transfer between items of appropriation made by this act. Since the General Assembly has granted the institution broad powers under the transfer of appropriations, it is both necessary and appropriate that the General Assembly maintain oversight of the utilization of the transfers by requiring prior approval of the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee in the utilization of the transfer authority. Therefore, 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 5. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

POSITIONS. (a) Nothing in this act shall be construed as a commitment of the State of Arkansas or any of its agencies or institutions to continue funding any position paid from the proceeds of the Tobacco Settlement in the event that Tobacco Settlement funds are not sufficient to finance the position.

(b) State funds will not be used to replace Tobacco Settlement funds when such funds expire, unless appropriated by the General Assembly and authorized by the Governor.

(c) A disclosure of the language contained in (a) and (b) of this Section shall be made available to all new hire and current positions paid from the proceeds of the Tobacco Settlement by the Tobacco Settlement Commission.

(d) Whenever applicable the information contained in (a) and (b) of this Section shall be included in the employee handbook and/or Professional

Services Contract paid from the proceeds of the Tobacco Settlement.

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

SECTION 6. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. 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 Purchasing Law, the General Accounting and Budgetary Procedures 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 7. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. 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 Initiated Act 1 of 2000, 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 8. 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.

**APPROVED: 2/13/25**