

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 121 of the Fiscal Session

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Fiscal Session, 2026

As Engrossed: H4/22/26

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1017

By: Joint Budget Committee

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR OPERATING,
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EXPENSES FOR THE DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE - PROMOTION BOARDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
ENDING JUNE 30, 2027; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
- PROMOTION BOARDS APPROPRIATION FOR THE
2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - BEEF COUNCIL. There is hereby appropriated,
to the Department of Agriculture, to be payable from the Beef Council Fund,
for operating, research and development expenses of the Department of
Agriculture - Arkansas Beef Council for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027,
the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
NO.	2026-2027
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$22,076
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	5,000
(C) PROF. FEES	3,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0



(02) RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT	<u>1,037,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$1,067,076</u></u>

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - CATFISH PROMOTION BOARD. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Agriculture, to be payable from the Arkansas Catfish Promotion Fund, for operating expenses, research, promotion and consumer activities of the Department of Agriculture - Arkansas Catfish Promotion Board for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM <u>NO.</u>	FISCAL YEAR <u>2026-2027</u>
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$1,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(02) PROMOTIONAL ITEMS	25,000
(03) RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT	<u>94,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$120,000</u></u>

SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - CORN AND GRAIN SORGHUM PROMOTION BOARD. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Agriculture, to be payable from the Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board Fund, for operating, research and development expenses of the Department of Agriculture - Arkansas Corn and Grain Sorghum Promotion Board for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM <u>NO.</u>	FISCAL YEAR <u>2026-2027</u>
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$25,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0

(02) RESEARCH/DEVELOPMENT	<u>1,975,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$2,000,000</u></u>

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - RICE RESEARCH AND PROMOTION BOARD. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Agriculture, to be payable from the Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Fund, for operating, research and development expenses of the Department of Agriculture - Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$14,200
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(02) RESEARCH/DEVELOPMENT	<u>6,966,496</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$6,980,696</u></u>

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - RICE RESEARCH AND PROMOTION BOARD- CASH. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Agriculture, to be payable from the cash funds as defined by Arkansas Code 19-4-801, for rice research and development of the Department of Agriculture - Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT	<u><u>\$15,000,000</u></u>

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - SOYBEAN PROMOTION BOARD. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Agriculture, to be payable from the Soybean Promotion Fund, for operating, research and development expenses of the Department of Agriculture - Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$60,500
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	2,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(02) RESEARCH/DEVELOPMENT	<u>8,537,500</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$8,600,000</u>

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - WHEAT PROMOTION BOARD. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Agriculture, to be payable from the Arkansas Wheat Promotion Fund, for operating, research and development expenses of the Department of Agriculture - Arkansas Wheat Promotion Board for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$3,599
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(02) RESEARCH/DEVELOPMENT	<u>440,895</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$444,494</u>

SECTION 8. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. SERVICE CHARGE FEE WAIVER.

(a)(1) After consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State may waive the deductions for the Constitutional Officers Fund and the State Central Services Fund required under §§ 19-21-103 and 19-21-105 for:

(A) Collections of special revenue under § 2-9-112; or

(B) The deductions under §§ 2-20-406(c)(1), 2-20-507(c)(1), 2-20-606(b)(2)(A), 2-20-805(c)(2), and 2-35-308(b)(1).

(2) The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall notify the Treasurer of State and the secretary of the waiver.

(b) The provision of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.

SECTION 9. 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 10. 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 11. 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, 2026 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, 2026 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, 2026.

/s/Joint Budget Committee

APPROVED: 4/29/26