

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.  
Act 149 of the Fiscal Session

State of Arkansas  
95th General Assembly  
Fiscal Session, 2026

As Engrossed: S4/21/26 S4/27/26

**A Bill**

SENATE BILL 21

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 HUMAN SERVICES - DIVISION OF AGING, ADULT, AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

**Subtitle**

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES - DIVISION OF AGING, ADULT, AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - STATE OPERATIONS. There is hereby established for the Department of Human Services - Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2026-2027
(1)	EEX22A	HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION DIRECTOR	2	GRADE EXE02
(2)	SSP03C	DHS DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR	3	GRADE SPC09
(3)	MHA01C	NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATOR	1	GRADE SPC08



(4)	SSP07C SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR	1	GRADE SPC08
(5)	LAT05P ATTORNEY III	1	GRADE SPC08
(6)	SSP04C DHS DIVISION MANAGER	7	GRADE SPC07
(7)	MHA02C NURSING HOME ASST ADMINISTRATOR	1	GRADE SPC06
(8)	PHS06C HEALTH PROGRAM MANAGER	4	GRADE SPC05
(9)	SCM03P LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER	14	GRADE SPC03
(10)	SCM04P LICENSED MASTER SOCIAL WORKER	14	GRADE SPC02
(11)	SCM06P LICENSED SOCIAL WORKER	4	GRADE SPC01
(12)	FFS03C FISCAL SUPPORT MANAGER	1	GRADE SGS09
(13)	TFS03C FOOD SERVICES MANAGER	1	GRADE SGS09
(14)	PQA02C QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER	2	GRADE SGS09
(15)	SSP15C SOCIAL SERVICES MANAGER	1	GRADE SGS09
(16)	PHS08P HEALTH PROGRAM SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	27	GRADE SGS08
(17)	TST03P LICENSED TRADESMAN SUPVR/EXPERT	2	GRADE SGS08
(18)	CTR04P TRAINING SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	1	GRADE SGS08
(19)	TFM02C FACILITY MANAGER	1	GRADE SGS07
(20)	SSE02C SECURITY MANAGER	1	GRADE SGS07
(21)	PAS08I EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	1	GRADE SGS07
(22)	PDA01P DATA/RESEARCH ANALYST	2	GRADE SGS07
(23)	CME03P GRAPHIC ARTIST	1	GRADE SGS07
(24)	PHS05P HEALTH PROGRAM COORDINATOR	44	GRADE SGS07
(25)	TST02P LICENSED TRADESMAN	3	GRADE SGS07
(26)	PPR02P PROCUREMENT COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS07
(27)	TST05P SKILLED TRADESMAN SUPVR/EXPERT	6	GRADE SGS07
(28)	ETF06P TEACHER II	1	GRADE SGS07
(29)	SCM01I CHAPLAIN	1	GRADE SGS06
(30)	ILS03I LEGAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	7	GRADE SGS06
(31)	PHS07P HEALTH PROGRAM SPECIALIST	46	GRADE SGS06
(32)	SLA04P LABORATORY TECHNICIAN I	1	GRADE SGS06
(33)	TMA04P MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	3	GRADE SGS06
(34)	PQA03P QUALITY ASSURANCE SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS06
(35)	PAS15P RECORDS SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	1	GRADE SGS06
(36)	TST04P SKILLED TRADESMAN	30	GRADE SGS06
(37)	SSP16P SOCIAL SERVICES SPECIALIST	2	GRADE SGS06
(38)	SCM09P SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS06
(39)	ETF05P TEACHER I	3	GRADE SGS06

(40)	TFS04C	FOOD SERVICES SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	4	GRADE	SGS05
(41)	PRC06C	RESIDENT. CARE TEAM SUPVR/EXPERT	3	GRADE	SGS05
(42)	PAS01P	ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	26	GRADE	SGS05
(43)	PDA02P	DATA/RESEARCH SPECIALIST	1	GRADE	SGS05
(44)	FGM02P	GRANTS COORDINATOR	1	GRADE	SGS05
(45)	IIN02P	INSPECTOR II	1	GRADE	SGS05
(46)	TIW04P	INVENTORY SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	4	GRADE	SGS05
(47)	IIV03P	INVESTIGATOR II	3	GRADE	SGS05
(48)	PPE02P	PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY SPECIALIST I	8	GRADE	SGS05
(49)	PAS02P	ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	40	GRADE	SGS04
(50)	FFS04P	FISCAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	3	GRADE	SGS04
(51)	FGM01P	GRANTS ANALYST	3	GRADE	SGS04
(52)	HDH07P	HR SPECIALIST	1	GRADE	SGS04
(53)	TIW01P	INVENTORY COORDINATOR	3	GRADE	SGS04
(54)	IIV02P	INVESTIGATOR I	1	GRADE	SGS04
(55)	MLM04P	PHLEBOTOMIST	2	GRADE	SGS04
(56)	TST07P	TRADES SPECIALIST	4	GRADE	SGS04
(57)	THT01I	CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT	166	GRADE	SGS03
(58)	EEP01P	EDUCATION PARAPROFESSIONAL	4	GRADE	SGS03
(59)	TIW03P	INVENTORY SPECIALIST	9	GRADE	SGS03
(60)	TFS05P	KITCHEN SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	8	GRADE	SGS03
(61)	MPS01P	PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATOR	3	GRADE	SGS03
(62)	SSE01P	SECURITY GUARD	61	GRADE	SGS03
(63)	PAS05I	CALL CENTER SPECIALIST	1	GRADE	SGS02
(64)	THT04I	PHARMACY TECHNICIAN	2	GRADE	SGS02
(65)	PAS03P	ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST	14	GRADE	SGS02
(66)	THO02P	HOUSEKEEPER SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	4	GRADE	SGS02
(67)	TGR01P	LANDSCAPE COORDINATOR	2	GRADE	SGS02
(68)	PRC03P	RESIDENTIAL CARE COORDINATOR	59	GRADE	SGS02
(69)	TAT01I	BEAUTICIAN	1	GRADE	SGS01
(70)	TFS01P	COOK	38	GRADE	SGS01
(71)	PRC01P	HEALTH AIDE	2	GRADE	SGS01
(72)	THO01P	HOUSEKEEPER	49	GRADE	SGS01
(73)	PRC04P	RESIDENTIAL CARE SPECIALIST	38	GRADE	SGS01
(74)	MLM08C	STATE HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR	1	GRADE	MED12
(75)	MPA04C	PHARMACY MANAGER	1	GRADE	MED10

(76)	MPH03P PHYSICIAN	3	GRADE MED10
(77)	MDE01I DENTIST	1	GRADE MED09
(78)	MPA01P PHARMACIST	2	GRADE MED09
(79)	MNU05C NURSING ADMINISTRATOR	1	GRADE MED08
(80)	MNU04P NURSE PRACTITIONER	2	GRADE MED08
(81)	MLM05C PHYSICAL THERAPIST	1	GRADE MED07
(82)	MNU07C REGISTERED NURSE MANAGER	15	GRADE MED07
(83)	MLM07C SPEECH PATHOLOGIST	1	GRADE MED07
(84)	MNU03P NURSE INSTRUCTOR	1	GRADE MED06
(85)	MNU08P REG. NURSE SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	31	GRADE MED06
(86)	MDI03P REGISTERED DIETICIAN	1	GRADE MED05
(87)	MNU06P REGISTERED NURSE	153	GRADE MED05
(88)	MLM06C RESPIRATORY THERAPIST	3	GRADE MED04
(89)	MDI01P DIETICIAN	1	GRADE MED03
(90)	MNU02P LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE SUPVR/EXP.	9	GRADE MED03
(91)	MPS02P PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINER	1	GRADE MED03
(92)	MNU01P LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE	85	GRADE MED02
(93)	MRE02P REHABILITATION COORDINATOR	3	GRADE MED02
(94)	MRE03P REHABILITATION INSTRUCTOR	28	GRADE MED02
(95)	SLE02P POLICE OFFICER	<u>24</u>	GRADE LES01
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	<i>1,181</i>	

SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP - STATE OPERATIONS. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Human Services - Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services for the 2026-2027 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: three hundred forty-seven (347) 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 - STATE OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, 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 Human Services

- Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$58,680,049
(02) EXTRA HELP	5,764,305
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	24,750,860
(04) OVERTIME	5,712,006
(05) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	41,332,158
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	182,214
(C) PROF. FEES	11,460,581
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	900,000
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$148,782,173</u>

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - AGING AND ADULT SERVICES - OPERATIONS.

There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the paying account as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses, grants, and programs for aging and adult services of the Department of Human Services - Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) NURSING HOME CARE ALTERNATIVES	\$4,802,025
(02) NUTRITION PROGRAMS	22,790,328
(03) OLDER WORKER PROGRAM	1,052,665
(04) PROJECT GRANTS	17,436,641
(05) RETIRED & SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM	75,000
(06) SENIOR CITIZEN CENTERS	<u>10,000,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$56,156,659</u>

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - COMMUNITY ALCOHOL SAFETY OPERATIONS. There

is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the Highway Safety Special Fund, for grant payments of the Department of Human Services - Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) COMMUNITY ALCOHOL SAFETY GRANTS AND AID	<u>\$2,416,834</u>

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - PATIENT BENEFITS - CASH. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for benefits of the patients of the Department of Human Services - Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) PATIENT BENEFIT FUND	<u>\$70,000</u>

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - MENTAL HEALTH GRANTS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the paying account as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for grant payments of the Department of Human Services - Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) MENTAL HEALTH GRANTS AND AID	<u>\$47,553,171</u>

SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Fund, for education, drug abuse prevention, and treatment services of the Department of Human Services -

Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) EDUCATION/PREVENTION/TREATMENT	<u>\$49,666,991</u>

SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - CRISIS SERVICES. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the Behavioral Health Services Fund Account, for grants and operating expenses related to crisis intervention of the Department of Human Services - Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) CRISIS SERVICES	<u>\$5,000,000</u>

SECTION 10. APPROPRIATION - VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH GRANT PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the paying account as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for a grant program to veterans service organizations to support veterans and their families by the Department of Human Services - Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH GRANT PROGRAM	<u>\$5,000,000</u>

SECTION 11. APPROPRIATION - MEALS ON WHEELS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the Aging and Adult Services Fund Account, for the Meals on Wheels Program and transportation services for the elderly of the Department of Human Services - Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM <u>NO.</u>	FISCAL YEAR <u>2026-2027</u>
(01) TRANSPORTATION SERVICES	<u>\$2,400,000</u>

SECTION 12. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS SENIOR OLYMPICS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the Behavioral Health Services Fund Account, for matching funds for the Arkansas Senior Olympics of the Department of Human Services - Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM <u>NO.</u>	FISCAL YEAR <u>2026-2027</u>
(01) STATE MATCH	<u>\$70,000</u>

SECTION 13. APPROPRIATION - INDEPENDENT CHOICES GRANTS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the paying account as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for grant payments of the Department of Human Services - Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM <u>NO.</u>	FISCAL YEAR <u>2026-2027</u>
(01) INDEPENDENT CHOICES GRANTS AND AID	<u>\$400,000</u>

SECTION 14. APPROPRIATION - FIGHT SENIOR HUNGER COMMUNITY GRANT MATCH PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Human Services, to be payable from the paying account as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for grant match payments of the Department of Human Services - Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM <u>NO.</u>	FISCAL YEAR <u>2026-2027</u>
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(01) FIGHT SENIOR HUNGER GRANT MATCH \$400,000

SECTION 15. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES. Pay rates for physicians and chief psychologists within the Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services may include the special allowances available to UAMS physicians and professional faculty as authorized in Arkansas Code. Part of the salaries of such staff will come from the receipt of professional income in the care of patients and/or funds received from federal agencies, foundations and other private sponsors in the support of research. Provided that any such allowance shall not exceed, for any employee, an amount equal to two and one half times the salary authorized by the General Assembly. The specific Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services classifications covered by this language are:

Class		Maximum Annual
Code	Title	Salary Rate
MPH02P	PHYSICIAN SPECIALIST	MED12
MPH03P	PHYSICIAN	MED10
MPS04P	PSYCHOLOGIST II	MED09

Prior to these allowances being made available for an individual, they will be approved by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and reviewed by the Personnel Committee of the Arkansas Legislative Council or the Joint Budget Committee.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

SECTION 16. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. ARKANSAS HEALTH CENTER. (A) The Department of Human Services shall not close the Arkansas Health Center that provides skilled nursing through specialized services and programs.

(B) The Department of Human Services shall continue to accept clients for whom it has determined that skilled nursing and specialized services are needed at the Arkansas Health Center.

(C) No funds shall be transferred or reduced from the Arkansas Health

Center, except for use as federal matching funds, below the approved funding level on March 1, 2003 without the prior approval of the Arkansas Legislative Council or the Joint Budget Committee.

(D) Determining 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 Human Services may operate more efficiently if some flexibility is provided to the Department of Human Services 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, ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

SECTION 17. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.  
EMPLOYMENT WORK DAYS.

For employees hired on or after July 1, 2013, at the Arkansas State Hospital as either a Teacher II or a Teacher I, the Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services Director shall set the number of work days for the employment year to equal the number of days worked by those employed in the same classifications at the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind. The accrual, use, and carryover of sick days, personal days, and holidays of the employees at the Arkansas State Hospital that are hired on or after July 1, 2013 shall be treated in the same manner as those employed in the same classifications at the Arkansas School for the Deaf and Blind.

All employees affected by this section shall be eligible to receive hazardous duty pay for time worked in eligible areas.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

SECTION 18. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. CARRY FORWARD - CRISIS SERVICES. Any unexpended balance of funds allocated for Crisis Services in the Department of Human Services - Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services from the Behavioral Health Services Fund Account which remains 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,

~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

SECTION 19. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. AGING AND ADULT SERVICES - MATCHING FUNDS. The funds appropriated for state match for the Arkansas Senior Olympics Program in this Act shall be paid on a two-to-one state/local matching basis. The Senior Arkansas Sports Organization must certify its portion of the match to the Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services before any funds appropriated for state match for the Arkansas Senior Olympics Program in this Act are disbursed.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

SECTION 20. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. AGING AND ADULT SERVICES - NURSING HOME CARE ALTERNATIVES. Funding for "Nursing Home Care Alternatives", as it appears in the Aging and Adult Services - Operations appropriation may be used for home delivered meals, adult day care, homemaker/chore, respite care, personal care, health promotion, and other community-based activities. These funds may also be used to match Medicaid community-based programs.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

SECTION 21. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. SENIOR CITIZEN CENTERS. The appropriation in this act for Senior Citizen Centers shall be distributed in the same manner as the funding formula requirements set out in the federal Older Americans Act funding law. The additional funding provided by this provision shall supplement and not supplant any monies currently funding services for Senior Citizen Centers.

The requirements in this section shall only be implemented in accordance with any necessary approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and in the event that additional general revenue funding is provided by the General Assembly for these purposes. Should additional funding provided for these purposes be insufficient to provide for the increases in full, the

increases shall be provided to the extent that funding is made available.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

SECTION 22. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. CARRY FORWARD OF UNOBLIGATED GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS FOR SENIOR CITIZEN CENTERS. (a) On June 30, 2019, or as soon as is practicable to determine funds available as authorized in this Section, and each fiscal year thereafter the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall cause to be transferred on his or her books and those of the State Treasurer and Auditor of State the balance of unobligated general revenue funds, excluding funds carried forward for other purposes, remaining in the Fund or Fund Accounts and the corresponding paying accounts as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, as set out in subsection (b) herein, to the Department of Human Services - Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services paying account to be used exclusively for the disbursement of funds for Senior Citizen Centers in the amount of recouped and recovered general revenue not to exceed five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).

(b) Any unobligated general revenue, excluding funds carried forward for other purposes, remaining in the following Fund or Fund Accounts and the corresponding paying accounts at the end of the Fiscal Year that would normally be transferred into the General Revenue Allotment Reserve Fund as recouped or recovered General Revenue shall be transferred as authorized in subsection (a) herein:

- (1) Department of Human Services Administration Fund Account;
- (2) Children and Family Services Fund Account;
- (3) Youth Services Fund Account;
- (4) Developmental Disabilities Services Fund Account;
- (5) Medical Services Fund Account;
- (6) Behavioral Health Services Fund Account;
- (7) County Operations Fund Account; and
- (8) Provider Services and Quality Assurance Fund Account.

(c)(1) Any general revenue recouped or recovered as authorized in subsections (a) and (b) herein shall be carried forward to the following fiscal year for Senior Citizen Centers and shall be distributed in the same

manner as the funding formula requirements set out in the federal Older Americans Act funding law.

(2) The additional funding provided by this provision shall supplement and not supplant any monies currently funding services for Senior Citizen Centers.

(d) Should additional funding provided for in subsections (a) and (b) herein be insufficient to provide for the full five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) authorized, the increases shall be provided to the extent that general revenue is recouped and carried forward.

(e)(1) The Department of Human Services shall provide a written report to the Department of Finance and Administration Budget Office, the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee the total amount of general revenue carried forward and distributed as set forth in this section no later than thirty (30) days prior to the time the Department presents its budget request to the Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee.

(2) The Department of Finance and Administration shall include all information obtained in subsection (e)(1) herein in the budget manual submitted to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee for the Department.

*SECTION 23. SPECIAL LANGUAGE - CODE AMENDMENT. Arkansas Code § 20-64-903(b), concerning the exemptions to licensure for an alcohol and drug abuse treatment program, is amended to read as follows:*

*(b) The following programs and persons are exempted from the requirements of this subchapter:*

*(1) Acute care, hospital-based alcohol and drug abuse treatment programs governed by §§ 20-9-201 and 20-10-213;*

*(2) Members of the clergy, Christian Science practitioners, and licensed professionals working within the standards of their respective professions, including without limitation:*

- (A) Attorneys;*
- (B) Counselors;*
- (C) Nurses;*
- (D) Physicians;*
- (E) Psychological examiners;*
- (F) Psychologists;*

(G) School counselors; and

(H) Social workers;

(3) Treatment directly administered by the United States Department of Defense or any other federal agency; ~~and~~

(4) Self-help or twelve-step programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Cocaine Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Al-Anon, or Nar-Anon Family Groups; and

(5) Faith-based treatment and recovery programs for substance abuse.

SECTION 24. 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 25. 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 26. 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: 5/1/26**