

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Fiscal Session, 2026

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 LABOR AND LICENSING - WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND LICENSING - WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES. There is hereby established for the Department of Labor and Licensing - Workers' Compensation Commission for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum	Maximum Annual
			No. of Employees	Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2026-2027
(1)	EEX53A	WORKERS COMPENSATION CHAIRMAN	1	GRADE EXE02
(2)	EEX54A	WORKERS COMPENSATION COMMISSIONER	2	GRADE EXE01
(3)	ILP06C	WORKERS COMP CEO	1	GRADE SPC10
(4)	LAT07C	CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE	1	GRADE SPC09



(5)	ILP05C WORKERS COMP ASST CEO	1	GRADE SPC09
(6)	LAT01C ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE	12	GRADE SPC08
(7)	LAT05P ATTORNEY III	1	GRADE SPC08
(8)	ILP07C WORKERS COMP DIVISION MANAGER	7	GRADE SPC05
(9)	LAT04P ATTORNEY II	12	GRADE SPC05
(10)	FAC02P ACCOUNTANT II	1	GRADE SPC02
(11)	ILS01I COURT REPORTER	1	GRADE SGS08
(12)	PAS08I EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	4	GRADE SGS07
(13)	PCA01P CLAIMS COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS07
(14)	FFS05P FISCAL SUPPORT SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	5	GRADE SGS07
(15)	HDH05P HR COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS07
(16)	TIS01P INDUSTRIAL SAFETY COORDINATOR	4	GRADE SGS07
(17)	ILS03I LEGAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	5	GRADE SGS06
(18)	PAS01P ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	1	GRADE SGS05
(19)	FBU03P BUDGET SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS05
(20)	PCA04P WORKERS COMP COORDINATOR	19	GRADE SGS05
(21)	PAS02P ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR	13	GRADE SGS04
(22)	IIV02P INVESTIGATOR I	3	GRADE SGS04
(23)	PAS03P ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS02
(24)	MNU06P REGISTERED NURSE	1	GRADE MED05
(25)	IIS11P IT SUPERVISOR/EXPERT	1	GRADE IST09
(26)	IIS04P IT INFRASTRUCTURE ANALYST	1	GRADE IST06
(27)	IUS01P USER SUPPORT ANALYST	3	GRADE IST04
(28)	IUS04P USER SUPPORT SPECIALIST	<u>1</u>	GRADE IST02
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	105	

SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Labor and Licensing - Workers' Compensation Commission 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: two (2) 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 - WCC ADMINISTRATION. There is hereby

appropriated, to the Department of Labor and Licensing, to be payable from the Workers' Compensation Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Labor and Licensing - Workers' Compensation Commission - Administration for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$7,029,998
(02) EXTRA HELP	100,000
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	2,455,542
(04) OVERTIME	10,000
(05) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	1,305,495
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	20,000
(C) PROF. FEES	240,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	1,000
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(06) REFUND/REIMBURSEMENTS - ADMIN	500,000
(07) COMPUTER SOFTWARE/HARDWARE	<u>243,800</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$11,905,835</u>

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - REFUNDS/CLAIMS/INVESTMENTS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Labor and Licensing, to be payable from the Death and Permanent Total Disability Trust Fund, for refund of taxes, payment of death and total disability claims, and investment of funds in the Death and Permanent Total Disability Trust Fund as allowed by the Department of Labor and Licensing - Workers' Compensation Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) REFUND/REIMBURSEMENTS - DEATH AND TOTAL DISABILITY	\$550,000
(02) CLAIMS - DEATH AND TOTAL DISABILITY	<u>21,000,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$21,550,000</u>

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - SECOND INJURY CLAIMS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Labor and Licensing, to be payable from the Second Injury Trust Fund, for payment of second injury claims of the Department of Labor and Licensing - Workers' Compensation Commission - Second Injury Claims for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) CLAIMS - SECOND INJURY	<u>\$500,000</u>

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - SEMINAR - CASH. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Labor and Licensing, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for scholarships and educational conference expenses of the Department of Labor and Licensing - Workers' Compensation Commission 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	\$85,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	15,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(02) SCHOLARSHIPS	<u>40,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$140,000</u>

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION BUILDING. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Labor and Licensing, to be payable from the Workers' Compensation Fund, for maintenance, renovation, equipping, construction, improvement, upgrade and repair projects for the Department of Labor and Licensing - Workers' Compensation Commission Building for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
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NO.	2026-2027
(01) BUILDING REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	<u>\$150,000</u>

SECTION 8. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION - REFUND TO EXPENDITURE. The proceeds from the reimbursement of travel expenses received by the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission shall be deposited into the same State Treasury Fund or Fund Account from which the original travel expenditures was incurred as a refund to expenditure to the credit of the appropriation from which the original expenditure was made.

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

APPROVED: 4/22/26