

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 152 of the Fiscal Session

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Fiscal Session, 2026

As Engrossed: S4/15/26 S4/27/26

A Bill

SENATE BILL 31

By: Joint Budget Committee

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES
AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30,
2027; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF
THE COURTS APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2026-
2027 FISCAL YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - OPERATIONS. There is hereby established
for the Administrative Office of the Courts 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)	Q004N	AOC DIRECTOR	1	GRADE EXE04
(2)	Q008N	AOC DEPUTY DIRECTOR	1	GRADE EXE03
(3)	Q009C	AOC MANAGING ATTORNEY	2	GRADE SPC10
(4)	Q019C	AOC SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY	3	GRADE SPC06
(5)	Q058C	AOC JUDICIAL BRANCH EDUCATION DIR	1	GRADE SGS12
(6)	Q014C	AOC SPECIALTY COURT COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS12



(7)	Q050C	AOC COURT INTERPRETER SERVICES DIR	1	GRADE SGS11
(8)	Q071C	AOC FISCAL OFFICER	1	GRADE SGS11
(9)	Q069C	AOC CASA COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS10
(10)	G309C	AOC GRANTS MANAGER	1	GRADE SGS10
(11)	Q082C	AOC INTERPRETER SC:L	1	GRADE SGS10
(12)	Q258C	AOC JUVENILE JUSTICE SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS10
(13)	Q089C	AOC OFFICE MANAGER	1	GRADE SGS10
(14)	Q104C	AOC PERSONNEL MANAGER	2	GRADE SGS10
(15)	Q057C	AOC PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER	1	GRADE SGS10
(16)	Q081C	AOC SPANISH INTERPRETER	4	GRADE SGS10
(17)	Q070C	AOC REGIONAL FUNCTIONAL SPECIALIST	6	GRADE SGS09
(18)	Q289C	AOC DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS08
(19)	Q113C	AOC EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	5	GRADE SGS08
(20)	Q102C	AOC JUDICIAL EDUCATION SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS08
(21)	A142C	AOC PAYROLL SERVICES SPECIALIST	1	GRADE SGS08
(22)	Q105C	AOC RESEARCH ANALYST	1	GRADE SGS08
(23)	Q260C	AOC COURT APPLICATIONS BUSINESS DIR	1	GRADE IST12
(24)	D143C	AOC JUDICIAL CHIEF IT SECURITY ARCH	1	GRADE IST11
(25)	Q088C	AOC COMPUTER SUPPORT MANAGER	1	GRADE IST09
(26)	Q219C	AOC DATA QUALITY MANAGER	2	GRADE IST09
(27)	Q048C	AOC SOFTWARE ENGINEER	2	GRADE IST06
(28)	Q114C	AOC COMPUTER SUPPORT ANALYST II	<u>2</u>	GRADE IST05
		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	47	

SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP - OPERATIONS. There is hereby authorized, for the Administrative Office of the Courts - Operations 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 - OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the

Administrative Office of the Courts - Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$4,035,698
(02) EXTRA HELP	5,000
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	1,297,099
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	619,627
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	35,000
(C) PROF. FEES	45,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	164,500
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(05) JUDICIAL EDUCATION	400,000
(06) COURT INTERPRETER FEES	<u>614,100</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$7,216,024</u></u>

SECTION 4. REGULAR SALARIES - DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMISSION. There is hereby established for the Administrative Office of the Courts - Dispute Resolution Commission for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item Class	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2026-2027
(1) Q020C AOC ADR PROGRAM COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS12
(2) Q132C AOC ADR TRAINING COORDINATOR	1	GRADE SGS08
(3) Q113C AOC EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	<u>1</u>	GRADE SGS08
MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	3	

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMISSION - STATE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for personal services, operating expenses and grants of the Administrative Office of the Courts - Dispute Resolution Commission - State for the fiscal year ending June 30,

2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$232,681
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	77,206
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	35,514
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	15,000
(C) PROF. FEES	31,604
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(04) ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION GRANTS	<u>25,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$417,005</u></u>

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMISSION - CASH. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses, fees and services of the Administrative Office of the Courts - Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission - Cash for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$125,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	30,000
(C) PROF. FEES	120,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$275,000</u></u>

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - HEARING & VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS - STATE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for operating expenses for

reasonable accommodations for persons with hearing and visual impairments to act as a venire person or juror for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) AUXILIARY AIDS-HEARING & VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS	<u>\$10,000</u>

SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - DISTRICT JUDGES CONTINUING EDUCATION - STATE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for operating expenses for a continuing education program for District Judges 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	\$60,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	20,000
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$80,000</u>

SECTION 9. REGULAR SALARIES - DIVISION OF DEPENDENCY-NEGLECT REPRESENTATION. There is hereby established for the Administrative Office of the Courts - Division of Dependency-Neglect Representation for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item	Class	Maximum	Maximum Annual	
<u>No.</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Salary Rate</u>	
		No. of	Fiscal Year	
		Employees	2026-2027	
(1)	Q019C	AOC SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY	2	GRADE SPC06
(2)	Q029C	AOC AD LITEM ATTORNEY	34	GRADE SPC05

(3)	Q113C	AOC EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	1	GRADE SGS08
(4)	Q191C	AOC DATA ANALYST	<u>1</u>	GRADE IST06
		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	38	

SECTION 10. APPROPRIATION - DIVISION OF DEPENDENCY-NEGLECT REPRESENTATION. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be transferred from the State Administration of Justice Fund, and to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the Administrative Office of the Courts - Division of Dependency-Neglect Representation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.		FISCAL YEAR
		<u>2026-2027</u>
(01)	REGULAR SALARIES	\$3,447,422
(02)	PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	1,092,833
(03)	MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	566,514
	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	10,000
	(C) PROF. FEES	1,405,816
	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
	(E) DATA PROC.	0
(04)	LOCAL CASA PROGRAM GRANTS	1,750,000
(05)	ATTORNEY AD LITEM FEES/REIMBURSEMENTS	<u>396,750</u>
	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$8,669,335</u></u>

SECTION 11. REGULAR SALARIES - COURT AUTOMATION. There is hereby established for the Administrative Office of the Courts - Court Automation 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)	Q012N	AOC CIS DIVISION DIRECTOR	1	GRADE IST15

(2)	Q015N	AOC APPLICATIONS DIRECTOR	1	GRADE IST12
(3)	Q261C	AOC IT PROJECT MGMT OFFICE DIRECTOR	1	GRADE IST12
(4)	Q062N	AOC SYSTEMS DIRECTOR	1	GRADE IST12
(5)	N187N	CIS DIVISION ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	1	GRADE IST12
(6)	Q005C	AOC DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR	2	GRADE IST11
(7)	Q259C	AOC JUDICIAL CHIEF IT SEC OFFICER	1	GRADE IST11
(8)	Q140C	AOC DEVELOPMENT TEAM MANAGER	1	GRADE IST10
(9)	Q028C	AOC TECHNICAL TEAM MANAGER	1	GRADE IST10
(10)	Q136C	AOC INFORMATION SYSTEMS ADMIN	2	GRADE IST09
(11)	Q016C	AOC PROGRAM MANAGER	1	GRADE IST09
(12)	Q190C	AOC PROJECT MANAGER II	3	GRADE IST07
(13)	Q138C	AOC QUALITY ASSURANCE LEAD	1	GRADE IST07
(14)	Q135C	AOC BUSINESS ANALYST	4	GRADE IST06
(15)	Q191C	AOC DATA ANALYST	1	GRADE IST06
(16)	Q139C	AOC IT SECURITY ANALYST	1	GRADE IST06
(17)	Q189C	AOC PROJECT ANALYST	2	GRADE IST06
(18)	Q137C	AOC QUALITY ASSURANCE COORDINATOR	1	GRADE IST06
(19)	Q300C	AOC QUALITY ENGINEER	1	GRADE IST06
(20)	Q142C	AOC SOFTWARE ENGINEER	4	GRADE IST06
(21)	Q049C	AOC TECHNICAL ANALYST	3	GRADE IST06
(22)	Q101C	AOC WEBSITE DEVELOPER	1	GRADE IST06
(23)	Q068C	AOC APPLICATIONS SPECIALIST	<u>8</u>	GRADE IST05
		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	43	

SECTION 12. APPROPRIATION - COURT AUTOMATION. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the Judicial Fine Collection Enhancement Fund, for personal services, operating expenses and other costs associated with the state court automation system by the Administrative Office of the Courts - Court Automation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$3,748,354
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	1,201,501
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	

(A) OPER. EXPENSE	2,450,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	25,000
(C) PROF. FEES	50,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	801,590
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$8,276,445</u></u>

SECTION 13. APPROPRIATION - COURT AUTOMATION - CASH. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses and other costs associated with the state court automation system of the Administrative Office of the Courts - Court Automation - Cash for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$150,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$150,000</u></u>

SECTION 14. APPROPRIATION - DISTRICT JUDGES & CLERKS CONTINUING EDUCATION. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the District Court Judge and District Court Clerk Education Fund, for operating expenses for the purpose of providing continuing education to District Court Judges and District Courts Clerks by the Administrative Office of the Courts - District Court Judges & Clerks Continuing Education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	

(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$100,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	10,000
(C) PROF. FEES	10,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$120,000</u></u>

SECTION 15. REGULAR SALARIES - COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - FEDERAL.
 There is hereby established for the Administrative Office of the Courts - Court Improvement - Federal for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item Class	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2026-2027
<u>No. Code Title</u>	<u>Employees</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(1) Q056C AOC CIP PROGRAM MANAGER	<u>1</u>	GRADE SGS10
MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	1	

SECTION 16. APPROPRIATION - COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - FEDERAL. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services, operating expenses and grants of the Administrative Office of the Courts - Court Improvement Program - Federal for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM <u>NO.</u>	<u>FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$71,560
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	24,357
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	350,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	150,000
(C) PROF. FEES	30,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0

(04) DEPENDENCY NEGLECT GRANTS	<u>140,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$765,917</u></u>

SECTION 17. REGULAR SALARIES - ACCESS & VISITATION MEDIATION - FEDERAL.
 There is hereby established for the Administrative Office of the Courts - Access & Visitation Mediation - Federal for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item Class	Maximum	Maximum Annual
No. Code Title	No. of	Salary Rate
No. Code Title	Employees	Fiscal Year
No. Code Title	Employees	2026-2027
(1) Q121C AOC DIRECTOR ACCESS & VISITATION	<u>1</u>	GRADE SGS07
MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	1	

SECTION 18. APPROPRIATION - ACCESS & VISITATION MEDIATION - FEDERAL.
 There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, 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 Administrative Office of the Courts - Access & Visitation Mediation - Federal for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
NO.	2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$44,749
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	18,333
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	10,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	85,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$158,082</u></u>

SECTION 19. REGULAR SALARIES - COURT SECURITY GRANTS. There is hereby established for the Administrative Office of the Courts - Court Security

Grants 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)	Q133C	AOC DIR OF SEC & EMER PREPAREDNESS	<u>1</u>	GRADE LES09
		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	1	

SECTION 20. APPROPRIATION - COURT SECURITY GRANTS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for personal services, operating expenses and security grants of the Administrative Office of the Courts - Court Security Grants for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.		FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01)	REGULAR SALARIES	\$101,563
(02)	PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	31,249
(03)	MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	25,000
	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	3,000
	(C) PROF. FEES	5,000
	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
	(E) DATA PROC.	0
(04)	SECURITY GRANTS	<u>500,000</u>
	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$665,812</u></u>

SECTION 21. APPROPRIATION - COUNTY JUROR REIMBURSEMENT. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the County Juror Reimbursement Fund, for reimbursing Arkansas counties for the costs of jurors by the Administrative Office of the Courts - County Juror Reimbursement for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2026-2027</u>
(01) COUNTY JUROR REIMBURSEMENTS	<u>\$850,000</u>

SECTION 22. APPROPRIATION - COURT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses of the Administrative Office of the Courts - Court Management Program 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	\$25,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$25,000</u>

SECTION 23. APPROPRIATION - USDOT CASE MANAGEMENT. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses for US Department of Transportation Case Management Program of the Administrative Office of the Courts - USDOT Case Management 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	\$484,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>

TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED \$484,000

SECTION 24. APPROPRIATION - COURT INTERPRETERS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses associated with fees from Court Interpreter candidates and interpreter fees ordered by judges 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	\$10,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	15,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$25,000</u>

SECTION 25. APPROPRIATION - SPECIALTY COURT PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the Specialty Court Program Fund, for costs associated with the Specialty Court Program and providing assistance and support to the Specialty Court Advisory Committee for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM <u>NO.</u>	FISCAL YEAR <u>2026-2027</u>
(01) SPECIALTY COURT PROGRAM	<u>\$300,000</u>

SECTION 26. APPROPRIATION - CASA PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the Arkansas Court Appointed Special Advocates Program Fund, for operating expenses and grants to local CASA programs statewide of the Administrative Office of the Courts - CASA Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) CASA PROGRAM EXPENSES	<u>\$10,000</u>

SECTION 27. APPROPRIATION - DRUG COURT ENHANCEMENT. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses of the Administrative Office of the Courts - Drug Court Enhancement for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$2,021,851
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	964,359
(C) PROF. FEES	3,677,807
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(02) GRANTS AND AID	2,498,223
(03) ADULT TREATMENT COURT PROGRAM	<u>28,640</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$9,190,880</u>

SECTION 28. APPROPRIATION - AOC STATEWIDE SOFTWARE LICENSE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for costs associated with software licensing for district and circuit courts of the Administrative Office of the Courts - Statewide Software License for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$30,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0

(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$30,000</u></u>

SECTION 29. APPROPRIATION - JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses associated with Juvenile Justice Racial and Ethnic Disparities Reform Initiative of the Administrative Office of the Courts - Juvenile Justice Reform 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	\$353,774
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	13,914
(C) PROF. FEES	632,312
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$1,000,000</u></u>

SECTION 30. APPROPRIATION - ACCOUNTABILITY COURT FUND. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the Accountability Court Fund, for operating expenses and grants and aid of the Administrative Office of the Courts - Accountability Court Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM <u>NO.</u>	FISCAL YEAR <u>2026-2027</u>
(01) ACCOUNTABILITY COURT EXPENSES	<u><u>\$400,000</u></u>

SECTION 31. APPROPRIATION - ADULT DRUG COURT. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses and grants and aid of the

Administrative Office of the Courts - Adult Drug Court Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) ADULT DRUG COURT EXPENSES	<u>\$1,000,000</u>

SECTION 32. APPROPRIATION - SPECIALTY COURTS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for operating expenses and grants for specialty courts of the Administrative Office of the Courts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$0
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	2,800,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(02) GRANTS AND AID	<u>1,700,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$4,500,000</u>

SECTION 33. APPROPRIATION - COURTHOUSE LACTATION FACILITIES. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses and grants for the construction, maintenance, renovation, equipping or purchase of lactation facilities for Arkansas Courthouses for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) COURTHOUSE LACTATION FACILITIES	<u>\$100,000</u>

SECTION 34. APPROPRIATION - BYRNE JAG GRANT. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for grants and aid to improve collaborative efforts with behavioral health and criminal justice stakeholders for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

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

SECTION 35. APPROPRIATION - COURT TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses for advancing the case management system in Arkansas for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$0
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	4,027,500
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$4,027,500</u>

SECTION 36. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. FUND TRANSFER. Federal funds received by the Arkansas State Police from the United States Department of Transportation from safety incentive funds received under 23 USC Section 402 for the "State and Community Highway Safety Program" may be granted to the Administrative Office of the Courts and deposited into the State Central Services Fund to reimburse expenditures by the Administrative Office of the Courts for operating expenses of the Continuing Education Program for District Judges as appropriated in the

District Judges Continuing Education - State appropriation herein. The appropriation to the Administrative Office of the Courts provided in the District Judges Continuing Education - State appropriation may be expended only in the event that federal funds have been granted and will be transferred from the Arkansas State Police to reimburse the Continuing Education Program for District Judges.

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

SECTION 37. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW.

DEPENDENCY-NEGLECT REPRESENTATION APPROPRIATION TRANSFER AUTHORITY. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall receive approval from the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee to transfer funds and appropriations between line items Regular Salaries, Personal Services Matching, Operating Expense, Professional Fees and Attorney Ad Litem Fees/Reimbursements of the Division of Dependency-Neglect Representation appropriation herein for the payment of employees and/or contractors providing legal services for the Division of Dependency-Neglect Representation.

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 Administrative Office of the Courts may operate more efficiently if some flexibility is provided to the Administrative Office of the Courts 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 38. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. MONTHLY INSTALLMENT. From July 1, ~~2025~~ 2026 through June 20, ~~2026~~ 2027, a lump sum monthly installment of at least one-twelfth (1/12) of a portion of the annual appropriation provided for in the Division of Dependency-Neglect Representation appropriation of this Act, or so much thereof as may be made available, shall be provided from the State Administration of Justice Fund to the State Central Services Fund to provide a portion of the funds for that appropriation.

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

SECTION 39. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER PROVISION. After receiving approval from the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, the Agency is authorized to transfer appropriation from any line item authorized in Court Automation Appropriation of the Administrative Office of the Courts in this Act to any other line item authorized in Court Automation Appropriation.

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 Administrative Office of the Courts may operate more efficiently if some flexibility is provided to the Administrative Office of the Courts 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 40. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. FUNDING AND APPROPRIATION TRANSFER AUTHORITY FOR COUNTY JUROR REIMBURSEMENT. (i) After receiving prior approval by the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee if meeting in a Legislative Session, the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts may direct the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State to transfer appropriation to the County Juror Reimbursement appropriation and State Central Services funding in the same amount to the County Juror Reimbursement Fund from any State Central Services Fund appropriation authorized for the Administrative Office of the Courts.

(ii) Determining the maximum amount of appropriation and 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 Administrative Office of the Courts may operate more efficiently if some flexibility is provided to the Administrative Office of the Courts 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, if meeting in a Legislative Session, 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.

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

SECTION 41. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS

CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY

LAW. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT 371 OF 2025 – INSTALLMENT FEES IN DISTRICT COURT.

(a)(1) The Administrative Office of the Courts may develop implementation guidance to assist district courts with proper assessment of installment fees in district court.

(2) The assessment and collection of installment fees shall be implemented in a manner that minimizes the financial hardship imposed on individuals who are authorized to pay fines on an installment basis.

(3) An installment fee totaling seventeen dollars and fifty cents (\$17.50) shall not be assessed under Acts 2025, No. 371, on a defendant in a department of a district court.

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

SECTION 42. 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 43. 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 44. 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