

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Fiscal Session, 2026

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1045

By: Joint Budget Committee

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE COMMISSIONER OF STATE LANDS AND FOR DISTRIBUTING PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OR REDEMPTION OF TAX DELINQUENT LAND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2027; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE COMMISSIONER OF STATE LANDS 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 Office of the Commissioner of State Lands for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Title	Maximum	Maximum Annual
		No. of Employees	Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2026-2027
(1)	CHIEF DEPUTY	1	\$142,769
(2)	GENERAL COUNSEL	1	\$127,941
(3)	IT ADMINISTRATOR	1	\$125,859
(4)	REAL ESTATE ADMINISTRATOR	1	\$125,859
(5)	SPECIAL PROJECTS COORD	1	\$94,901



(6)	NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR	1	\$94,901
(7)	DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS	1	\$92,081
(8)	REAL ESTATE DIRECTOR	1	\$92,081
(9)	PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR	1	\$92,081
(10)	OPERATIONS DIRECTOR	1	\$92,081
(11)	FISCAL DIRECTOR	1	\$92,081
(12)	HUMAN RESOURCES SUPERVISOR	1	\$82,523
(13)	GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS LIAISON	1	\$82,523
(14)	FISCAL ASSOCIATE I	1	\$82,523
(15)	ASSIST. DIRECTOR OF REAL ESTATE	1	\$82,523
(16)	ASSIST. DIR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS	1	\$82,523
(17)	REDEMPTION COORDINATOR	1	\$73,959
(18)	PUBLIC AFFAIRS LIAISON	1	\$73,959
(19)	MINERAL LEASING & NATURAL RES COORD	1	\$73,959
(20)	FISCAL ASSOCIATE II	2	\$73,959
(21)	RESEARCH TECH	5	\$66,285
(22)	RESEARCH COORDINATOR	1	\$66,285
(23)	RECORDS SPECIALIST	1	\$66,285
(24)	PARALEGAL	1	\$66,285
(25)	MANAGEMENT SECRETARY	2	\$66,285
(26)	FISCAL SECRETARY	1	\$66,285
(27)	EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	1	\$66,285
(28)	REDEMPTION TECH	3	\$59,409
(29)	PUBLIC RELATIONS SECRETARY	1	\$59,409
(30)	ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST	1	\$59,409
(31)	REAL ESTATE SECRETARY	1	\$53,347
(32)	ADMINISTRATION	1	\$53,347
(33)	RECORDS RETENTION TECH	1	\$47,728
(34)	CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSOCIATE	<u>1</u>	\$47,728
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	42	

SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP - OPERATIONS. There is hereby authorized, for the Office of the Commissioner of State Lands 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: five (5) 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 Commissioner of State Lands, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the Commissioner of State Lands for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$3,249,660
(02) EXTRA HELP	40,000
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	1,082,147
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	25,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$4,396,807</u>

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - DELINQUENT TAX. There is hereby appropriated, to the Commissioner of State Lands, to be payable from the cash funds as defined by Arkansas Code §19-4-801, for operating expenses and for distributing proceeds from the sale or redemption of tax delinquent land as prescribed by Chapter 37 of Title 26 of the Arkansas Code by the Commissioner of State Lands for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$1,500,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	2,000,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0

(E) DATA PROC.	0
(02) REFUND/RECORDING FEE REIMBURSEMENTS	1,300,000
(03) DELINQUENT TAX REMITTAL/SALE REFUNDS	<u>27,500,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$32,300,000</u></u>

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - CAPITAL OUTLAY/OPERATING EXPENSES. There is hereby appropriated, to the Commissioner of State Lands, to be payable from the cash funds as defined by Arkansas Code §19-4-801, for operating expenses and capital outlay of the Commissioner of State Lands for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM <u>NO.</u>	FISCAL YEAR <u>2026-2027</u>
(01) CAPITAL OUTLAY/OPERATING EXP	<u><u>\$267,800</u></u>

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - SUBMERGED LANDS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Commissioner of State Lands, to be payable from cash funds as defined by Arkansas Code §19-4-801, for personal services and operating expenses for projects involving submerged land by the Commissioner of State Lands for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM <u>NO.</u>	FISCAL YEAR <u>2026-2027</u>
(01) SUBMERGED LANDS	<u><u>\$250,000</u></u>

SECTION 7. 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 8. 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 9. 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