

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Fiscal Session, 2026

A Bill

SENATE BILL 14

By: Joint Budget Committee

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES
AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE ARKANSAS STATE GAME
AND FISH COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE
30, 2027; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE ARKANSAS STATE GAME AND
FISH 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
Arkansas State Game and Fish 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) | Q249U | AGFC DIRECTOR | 1 | \$170,437 |
| (2) | Q250U | AGFC CHIEF OF STAFF | 1 | \$136,703 |
| (3) | Q251U | AGFC DEPUTY DIRECTOR | 3 | \$135,253 |
| (4) | Q255U | AGFC CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER | 1 | \$132,292 |
| (5) | Q252U | AGFC VETERINARIAN | 1 | \$130,050 |
| (6) | Q256U | AGFC COLONEL | 1 | \$128,282 |



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|------|-------|-------------------------------------|----|-----------|
| (7) | Q266U | AGFC IT ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR | 1 | \$127,986 |
| (8) | Q371U | AGFC CHIEF OF HUMAN RESOURCES | 1 | \$125,049 |
| (9) | Q370U | AGFC CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER | 1 | \$125,049 |
| (10) | Q254U | AGFC GENERAL COUNSEL | 1 | \$125,049 |
| (11) | Q404U | AGFC LIEUTENANT COLONEL | 1 | \$121,923 |
| (12) | Q375U | AGFC CHIEF OF FISHERIES | 1 | \$121,321 |
| (13) | Q374U | AGFC CHIEF OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT | 1 | \$121,321 |
| (14) | Q373U | AGFC CHIEF OF EDUCATION | 1 | \$121,321 |
| (15) | Q372U | AGFC CHIEF OF OPERATIONS | 1 | \$121,321 |
| (16) | Q393U | AGFC DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL | 1 | \$117,593 |
| (17) | Q392U | AGFC CONTROLLER | 1 | \$117,593 |
| (18) | Q381U | AGFC CHIEF OF RESEARCH | 1 | \$117,593 |
| (19) | Q380U | AGFC CHIEF OF SHOOTING SPORTS | 1 | \$117,593 |
| (20) | Q379U | AGFC CHIEF OF PRIVATE LANDS MGMT | 1 | \$117,593 |
| (21) | Q378U | AGFC CHIEF OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDTN | 1 | \$117,593 |
| (22) | Q377U | AGFC CHIEF OF GIS | 1 | \$117,593 |
| (23) | Q376U | AGFC CHIEF OF COMMUNICATIONS | 1 | \$117,593 |
| (24) | Q261U | AGFC MAJOR | 3 | \$115,563 |
| (25) | Q265U | AGFC IT SOFTWARE ENGINEER LEAD | 1 | \$113,591 |
| (26) | Q258U | AGFC GIS LEAD | 1 | \$113,591 |
| (27) | | AGFC INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POOL | 13 | \$113,591 |
| | Q383U | AGFC IT SECURITY SPECIALIST | | \$113,591 |
| | Q382U | AGFC IT DATA SCIENTIST | | \$113,591 |
| | Q384U | AGFC IT SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR | | \$113,591 |
| | Q386U | AGFC IT SENIOR SOFTWARE SUP SPEC | | \$98,718 |
| | Q385U | AGFC IT DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR | | \$98,718 |
| | Q283U | AGFC IT SENIOR SOFTWARE SUP ANALYST | | \$95,269 |
| | Q387U | AGFC IT PROJECT MANAGER | | \$95,269 |
| | Q388U | AGFC IT NETWORK SUPPORT ANALYST | | \$95,269 |
| | Q389U | AGFC IT SYSTEMS SPECIALIST | | \$95,269 |
| | Q410U | AGFC IT PROJECT COORDINATOR | | \$90,064 |
| | Q390U | AGFC IT COMPUTER SUPPORT SPECIALIST | | \$90,064 |
| | Q308U | AGFC IT WEBSITE DEVELOPER | | \$78,575 |
| | Q391U | AGFC IT ASSET MANAGER | | \$78,575 |
| | Q365U | AGFC IT SOFTWARE SUPPORT ANALYST | | \$72,345 |
| | Q311U | AGFC IT COMPUTER SUPPORT ANALYST | | \$72,345 |

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| | Q409U | AGFC IT DATA ANALYST | | \$67,267 |
| | Q364U | AGFC IT SOFTWARE SUPPORT SPECIALIST | | \$66,316 |
| (28) | Q267U | AGFC CAPTAIN | 14 | \$107,692 |
| (29) | Q260U | AGFC DIVISION ASST CHIEF | 24 | \$105,933 |
| (30) | Q276U | AGFC LIEUTENANT | 15 | \$103,930 |
| (31) | Q284U | AGFC SERGEANT | 26 | \$100,285 |
| (32) | | AGFC CONS PROGRAM BIOLOGIST POOL | 90 | \$99,107 |
| | Q394U | AGFC CONS PROGRAM BIOLOGIST III | | \$99,107 |
| | Q402U | AGFC CONS PROGRAM BIOLOGIST II | | \$89,744 |
| | Q403U | AGFC CONS PROGRAM BIOLOGIST I | | \$86,609 |
| (33) | Q268U | AGFC ASSISTANT CONTROLLER | 1 | \$98,718 |
| (34) | | AGFC ATTORNEY POOL | 2 | \$98,718 |
| | Q452U | AGFC ATTORNEY SPECIALIST | | \$98,718 |
| | Q269U | AGFC ATTORNEY | | \$89,744 |
| (35) | | AGFC GIS POOL | 6 | \$98,718 |
| | Q271U | AGFC SENIOR GIS ANALYST | | \$98,718 |
| | Q279U | AGFC GIS ANALYST | | \$95,269 |
| | Q356U | AGFC GIS TECHNICIAN | | \$68,354 |
| (36) | Q368U | AGFC STATEWIDE PROJECT MANAGER | 8 | \$98,718 |
| (37) | | AGFC ENFORCEMENT POOL | 126 | \$96,748 |
| | Q288U | AGFC CORPORAL | | \$96,748 |
| | Q299U | AGFC GAME WARDEN 1ST CLASS | | \$90,004 |
| | Q309U | AGFC GAME WARDEN | | \$85,718 |
| (38) | | AGFC SKILLED TRADES POOL | 28 | \$89,744 |
| | Q278U | AGFC OPERATIONS & FACILITY MANAGER | | \$89,744 |
| | Q396U | AGFC FLEET MANAGER | | \$86,609 |
| | Q307U | AGFC SURVEYOR | | \$78,576 |
| | Q306U | AGFC REAL ESTATE OFFICER | | \$75,004 |
| | Q285U | AGFC CONSTRUCTION MANAGER | | \$71,432 |
| | Q315U | AGFC MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR | | \$71,432 |
| | Q400U | AGFC REGIONAL FACILITY MANAGER | | \$71,432 |
| | Q319U | AGFC COMMUNICATIONS SYS SUPERVISOR | | \$68,031 |
| | Q326U | AGFC SKILLED TRADESMAN | | \$68,031 |
| | Q304U | AGFC CENTRAL WAREHOUSE OPER MGR | | \$61,706 |
| | Q327U | AGFC AUTO/DIESEL MECHANIC | | \$61,706 |
| | Q335U | AGFC MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN | | \$61,706 |

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| | Q329U | AGFC CALIBRATION TECHNICIAN | | \$58,767 |
| | Q331U | AGFC FIRING RANGE SPECIALIST | | \$58,767 |
| (39) | | AGFC HR POOL | 4 | \$89,744 |
| | Q408U | AGFC PAYROLL MANAGER | | \$89,744 |
| | Q292U | AGFC PERSONNEL MANAGER | | \$89,081 |
| | Q301U | AGFC ASSISTANT PERSONNEL MANAGER | | \$75,004 |
| | Q313U | AGFC HUMAN RESOURCE ANALYST | | \$68,031 |
| (40) | | AGFC EDUCATION PROGRAM POOL | 51 | \$86,609 |
| | Q277U | AGFC NAT CENTER/SHOOTING FAC MGR II | | \$86,609 |
| | Q296U | AGFC EDU STATEWIDE COORDINATOR | | \$75,004 |
| | Q353U | AGFC NAT CENTER/SHOOTING FAC MGR I | | \$75,004 |
| | Q302U | AGFC EDUCATION PROGRAM SPECIALIST | | \$71,432 |
| (41) | | AGFC GRANTS MANAGEMENT POOL | 4 | \$86,609 |
| | Q291U | AGFC GRANTS MANAGER | | \$86,609 |
| | Q398U | AGFC GRANTS COORDINATOR II | | \$75,004 |
| | Q297U | AGFC GRANTS COORDINATOR I | | \$71,432 |
| (42) | Q354U | AGFC ACCOUNTING COORDINATOR | 1 | \$86,609 |
| (43) | | AGFC BIOLOGIST POOL | 109 | \$80,624 |
| | Q395U | AGFC BIOLOGIST II | | \$80,624 |
| | Q294U | AGFC BIOLOGIST I | | \$75,004 |
| | Q310U | AGFC BIOLOGICAL TECHNICIAN II | | \$68,031 |
| | Q337U | AGFC BIOLOGICAL TECHNICIAN I | | \$61,706 |
| (44) | Q450U | AGFC FOI COORDINATOR | 1 | \$75,004 |
| (45) | Q294U | AGFC BIOLOGIST I | 3 | \$75,004 |
| (46) | Q303U | AGFC EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT | 1 | \$75,004 |
| (47) | | AGFC ADMIN SUPPORT POOL | 37 | \$75,004 |
| | Q318U | AGFC REGIONAL OFFICES ADMINISTRATOR | | \$75,004 |
| | Q323U | AGFC ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST | | \$68,031 |
| | Q328U | AGFC ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE COORD | | \$64,644 |
| | Q339U | AGFC ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST | | \$58,767 |
| (48) | | AGFC ACCOUNTING POOL | 3 | \$75,004 |
| | Q357U | AGFC ACCOUNTANT II | | \$75,004 |
| | Q406U | AGFC ACCOUNTANT I | | \$71,432 |
| (49) | | AGFC COMMUNICATIONS POOL | 10 | \$75,004 |
| | Q397U | AGFC CREATIVE ARTIST | | \$75,004 |
| | Q399U | AGFC COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR | | \$71,432 |

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| | Q316U | AGFC PHOTOGRAPHER | | \$71,432 |
| | Q330U | AGFC COMMERCIAL GRAPHIC ARTIST | | \$64,444 |
| | Q336U | AGFC MULTIMEDIA SPECIALIST | | \$61,706 |
| (50) | Q435U | AGFC TELECOMMUNICATIONS MANAGER | 1 | \$75,004 |
| (51) | Q300U | AGFC LICENSING SUPERVISOR | 2 | \$75,004 |
| (52) | Q298U | AGFC PROCUREMENT COORDINATOR | 1 | \$75,004 |
| (53) | Q322U | AGFC TELECOMMUNICATIONS SUPERVISOR | 1 | \$68,031 |
| (54) | Q314U | AGFC LEGAL SERVICES SPECIALIST | 1 | \$68,031 |
| (55) | Q305U | AGFC FISCAL SUPPORT SUPERVISOR | 1 | \$67,877 |
| (56) | | AGFC FISCAL SUPPORT POOL | 12 | \$61,706 |
| | Q324U | AGFC FISCAL SUPPORT ANALYST | | \$61,706 |
| | Q340U | AGFC FISCAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST | | \$58,767 |
| (57) | Q333U | AGFC TELECOMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST | 9 | \$61,706 |
| (58) | Q401U | AGFC PRINTER/MAIL SERVICES SPEC | 1 | \$58,767 |
| (59) | Q343U | AGFC LICENSING SPECIALIST | 8 | \$58,767 |
| (60) | Q334U | AGFC INVENTORY CONTROL MANAGER | 1 | \$58,767 |
| (61) | Q332U | AGFC FOOD PREPARATION MANAGER | 1 | \$58,767 |
| (62) | Q341U | AGFC FOOD PREPARATION SUPERVISOR | <u>1</u> | \$50,131 |
| | MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES | | 647 | |

SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP. There is hereby authorized, for the Arkansas State Game and Fish 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: one hundred eighty-five (185) 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 Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be payable from the Game Protection Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

ITEM

FISCAL YEAR

| NO. | 2026-2027 |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| (01) REGULAR SALARIES | \$46,698,077 |
| (02) EXTRA HELP | 1,891,500 |
| (03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING | 16,826,509 |
| (04) OVERTIME | 250,000 |
| (05) UNIFORM ALLOWANCE | 1,000,000 |
| (06) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION | |
| (A) OPER. EXPENSE | 54,907,780 |
| (B) CONF. & TRAVEL | 517,727 |
| (C) PROF. FEES | 4,070,553 |
| (D) CAP. OUTLAY | 8,764,000 |
| (E) DATA PROC. | 0 |
| (07) GRANTS AND AID | 9,558,644 |
| (08) CONSTRUCTION | <u>17,738,903</u> |
| TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED | <u>\$162,223,693</u> |

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - GAS LEASE REVENUES. There is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be payable from the Game Protection Fund, for maintenance and general operations, capital projects, acquisition of land and conservation easements, grants, and expenses associated with Disaster Response of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

| ITEM NO. | FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| (01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION | |
| (A) OPER. EXPENSE | \$850,000 |
| (B) CONF. & TRAVEL | 0 |
| (C) PROF. FEES | 350,000 |
| (D) CAP. OUTLAY | 750,000 |
| (E) DATA PROC. | 0 |
| (02) GAS LEASE GRANTS | 50,000 |
| (03) DISASTER RESPONSE | <u>3,000,000</u> |
| TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED | <u>\$5,000,000</u> |

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - FARM BILL BIOLOGISTS. There is hereby

appropriated, to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be payable from the Game Protection Fund, for personal services and operating expenses associated with implementing Farm Bill Programs of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

| ITEM | FISCAL YEAR |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>NO.</u> | <u>2026-2027</u> |
| (01) REGULAR SALARIES | \$479,508 |
| (02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING | 164,143 |
| (03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION | |
| (A) OPER. EXPENSE | 1,350 |
| (B) CONF. & TRAVEL | 14,580 |
| (C) PROF. FEES | 0 |
| (D) CAP. OUTLAY | 0 |
| (E) DATA PROC. | <u>0</u> |
| TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED | <u><u>\$659,581</u></u> |

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - CONSERVATION PARTNERS PROGRAM GRANTS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be payable from the Game Protection Fund, for grants to conservation partners, or other eligible entities for operating, equipment, and maintenance expenses associated with addressing statewide hunger needs of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

| ITEM | FISCAL YEAR |
|---|-------------------------|
| <u>NO.</u> | <u>2026-2027</u> |
| (01) CONSERVATION PARTNERS PROGRAM GRANTS | <u><u>\$150,000</u></u> |

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - BLACK RIVER SETTLEMENT FUNDS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be payable from the Game Protection Fund, for all expenses associated with the mitigation to the hardwood timber destruction in the Wildlife Management Area, inclusive of Regular Salaries and Personal Services Matching of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

| ITEM | FISCAL YEAR |
|---|---------------------|
| <u>NO.</u> | <u>2026-2027</u> |
| (01) RESTORATION OF BLACK RIVER WMA EXPENSES | <u>\$13,250,000</u> |

SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - MARINE FUEL TAX PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be payable from the Game Protection Fund, for personal services, operating expenses and expenditures associated with increasing and improving access to waterways of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

| ITEM | FISCAL YEAR |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| <u>NO.</u> | <u>2026-2027</u> |
| (01) MARINE FUEL TAX PROGRAM | <u>\$6,000,000</u> |

SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - GTR AND WETLAND HABITAT RESTORATION. There is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, to be payable from the Game Protection Fund, for all expenses associated with Greentree reservoir renovation and other wetland habitat restoration of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, the following:

| ITEM | FISCAL YEAR |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <u>NO.</u> | <u>2026-2027</u> |
| (01) GTR & WETLAND HABITAT RENOVATION | <u>\$20,000,000</u> |

SECTION 10. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. PAYMENT OF REWARDS. Payment of rewards shall be from the Game Protection Fund from the Commission's Maintenance and General Operation appropriation as herein appropriated in the Operating Expenses line item of the Operations appropriation.

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

SECTION 11. 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 prior review by the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, the Agency is authorized to transfer appropriation from any line item authorized in the Operations appropriation to any other line item authorized in the Operations appropriation and the Agency is authorized to transfer appropriation from any line item authorized in the Gas Lease Revenues appropriation to any other line item authorized in the same section.

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

SECTION 12. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. PROMOTIONAL ITEMS. The Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission is hereby authorized to purchase from the Maintenance & General Operation Classifications in the Operations Appropriation provided by this Act for promotional items in an amount not to exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), as authorized by the Director of the Commission to meet fish and wildlife conservations and education needs.

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

SECTION 13. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. DIRECTOR SALARY INCREASE RESTRICTION. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Director shall not receive any salary adjustment that exceeds their June 17, ~~2025~~ 2026 actual salary by more than five percent (5%) without first receiving prior approval from the Legislative Council or if the General Assembly is in regular session, fiscal session, or extraordinary session, the Joint Budget Committee.

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 through June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027.

SECTION 14. 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 15. 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 16. 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: 4/27/26