

Analysis of Budget Request

Appropriation: 806 - Sentencing Commission State Operations

Funding Sources: HUA - Miscellaneous Agencies Fund

The Arkansas Sentencing Commission was established by Act 532 & 550 of 1993 as codified at A.C.A. § 16-90-801 - 16-90-804 for the purpose of instituting sentencing standards to ensure that sanctions imposed following conviction are proportional to the seriousness of the offense of conviction and the extent of the offender's criminal history. The Commission has developed the sentencing grid, the seriousness reference table and established transfer eligibility for all offenses. The Commission provides impact assessments of proposed legislation for the Governor and General Assembly through a professional service contract with the Institute on Crime, Justice and Correction. This contract also has provided training to the staff of the Sentencing Commission and the Department of Correction in the use of a software program that is utilized in data analysis of criminal justice laws, policies and procedures. The Commission consists of nine (9) Commissioners that are appointed by the Governor for a five-year term.

This is the primary operating appropriation of the Commission and is funded entirely by General Revenue.

Base Level salaries for classified positions reflect the recommendations of the Pay Plan Study and unclassified positions reflect similar adjustments in line item salaries. A 2.3% Cost of Living Allowance is reflected in the second year of the biennium. The Base Level request for Regular Salaries may include board member Stipend payments and Career Service payments for eligible employees. Personal Services Matching includes a \$75 increase in the monthly contribution for State employee's health insurance for a total State match per budgeted employee of \$425.

The Base Level Request is \$371,391 in FY10 and \$377,130 in FY11.

The Change Level Requests submitted are \$11,025 in FY10 and \$13,700 in FY11 and are summarized as follows:

1. Operating Expenses of \$2,000 in FY10 for increases in printing sentencing and bench book guidelines. This manual is updated each biennium to include changes made to criminal laws during the previous legislative session.
2. Information Technology needs in Operating Expenses of \$8,025 in FY10 and \$10,700 in FY11. This includes replacement of outdated desktop computers and the latest Microsoft Office and anti-virus software. Agency access to a legal research service with an on line subscription to Loislaw, and Department of Information System file storage as a backup system.
3. Conference Fees & Travel of \$1,000 each year respectively to attend training seminars and the National Association of Sentencing Commissions, the National Criminal Justice Association, and the Justice Research and Statistics Association Conferences.
4. Professional Fees and Services of \$2,000 in FY11 for cost associated with The Institute of Crime, Justice and Correction contract. The contract is up for renewal in FY11.

The Executive Recommendation provides for a 7% reduction in Base Level in General Revenue Funding and Appropriation in the amount of \$24,687 each year.

The Legislative Recommendation provides for the Agency Request.

Appropriation Summary

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Commitment Item		2007-2008	2008-2009	2008-2009	2009-2010			2010-2011		
		Actual	Budget	Authorized	Agency	Executive	Legislative	Agency	Executive	Legislative
Regular Salaries	5010000	192,994	202,574	196,041	212,949	201,793	212,949	217,784	206,628	217,784
#Positions		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Personal Services Matching	5010003	59,750	58,688	60,571	65,252	63,172	65,252	66,156	64,076	66,156
Operating Expenses	5020002	78,510	72,640	75,510	82,665	62,189	82,665	83,340	62,189	83,340
Conference & Travel Expenses	5050009	3,283	3,550	3,550	4,550	3,550	4,550	4,550	3,550	4,550
Professional Fees	5060010	16,000	17,000	17,000	17,000	16,000	17,000	19,000	16,000	19,000
Data Processing	5090012	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlay	5120011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		350,537	354,452	352,672	382,416	346,704	382,416	390,830	352,443	390,830
Funding Sources										
General Revenue	4000010	350,537	352,672		382,416	346,704	382,416	390,830	352,443	390,830
Merit Adjustment Fund	4000055	0	1,780		0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Funding		350,537	354,452		382,416	346,704	382,416	390,830	352,443	390,830
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)		0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total		350,537	354,452		382,416	346,704	382,416	390,830	352,443	390,830

The FY09 Budget amount in Regular Salaries exceeds the Authorized amount due to salary adjustments during the 2007-2009 biennium.

The Actual Operating Expense exceeds Authorized due to a higher Authorized appropriation in FY08.