



February 28, 2024

Honorable Senator Jonathan Dismang, Co-Chair
 Honorable Representative Lane Jean, Co-Chair
 Joint Budget Committee
 One Capitol Mall
 Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Senator Dismang and Representative Jean:

Upon Leadership’s request, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has been asked to detail recommended appropriation to the AOC as part of the Protect Arkansas Act (see A.C.A. § 16-10-143) and special language regarding county juror reimbursements. Therefore, the AOC respectfully requests the following in its 2024-2025 appropriation bill:

1. A new section and fund center to be titled “Specialty Courts.” Funding shall derive from the state central services fund with the following appropriation amounts in this section:
 - Professional Fees and Services – \$2,800,000. This appropriation will be used to enter into professional service contracts with qualified attorneys to serve as specialty court members and to represent special court participants.
 - Grants/Aid – \$1,700,000. This appropriation will be used for supportive and restorative services in specialty courts and as supplemental funding for the expansion or establishment of specialty court programs in circuit courts.
2. The following special language regarding county juror reimbursements authorized via Section 21 – County Juror Reimbursement:
 - SECTION 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, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

The AOC also respectfully requests the following changes to its fiscal year 2024-2025 appropriation bill:

1. Eliminate AOC CIP Data Analyst in Section 15. In Section 1, adjust the number of AOC Data Quality Manager employees to two.
2. The following adjustments of appropriation for commitment items in Section 16 – Federal Court Improvement Program to the following amounts. The AOC is also asking for “court technology grants” to be retitled “dependency neglect grants.” **This is a reduction in total appropriation amount:**
 - Salary – \$64,600
 - Matching – \$21,534
 - Operating Expenses – \$350,000
 - Conference and Travel – \$150,000
 - Professional Fees and Services – \$30,000
 - Dependency Neglect Grants – \$140,000
3. A change in appropriation from \$544,627 to \$619,627 in operating expenses in Section 3 – Appropriation – Operations. Rising costs associated with inflation combined with additional responsibilities delegated to the agency in recent years necessitate a change in operating expenses appropriation.
4. Removal of Section 23 (fund center 99X/Stop Domestic Violence). This federally funded grant has expired.
5. A change in appropriation from \$250,000 to \$500,000 in security grants in Section 20 – Appropriation – Court Security Grants. The appropriation amount has not changed in the 15 years since its inception, and this change is necessary to ensure the security of courthouses. The entirety of this appropriation goes directly to counties across the state. Funding is from the state central services fund.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Marty Sullivan
cc: Bureau of Legislative Research

ARKANSAS SENATE
94th General Assembly - Fiscal Session, 2024
Amendment Form

DRAFT

Subtitle of Senate Bill No. 28

AN ACT FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2024-2025
FISCAL YEAR.

Amendment No. ___ to Senate Bill No. 28

Amend Senate Bill No. 28 as originally introduced:

Page 1, line 34, delete "1" and substitute with "2"

AND

Page 2, line 22, delete "46" and substitute with "47"

AND

Page 3, line 9, delete "544,627" and substitute with "619,627"

AND

Page 3, line 16, delete "\$6,136,877" and substitute with "\$6,211,877"

AND

Page 9, delete line 17 in its entirety and substitute with
"~~(1) Q047C AOC CIP DATA ANALYST 1 GRADE IT08~~"

AND

Page 9, line 18, delete "(2)" and substitute with "(1)"

AND

Page 9, line 19, delete "2" and substitute with "1"

AND

Page 9, line 30, delete "\$154,127" and substitute with "\$64,600"

AND

Page 9, line 31, delete "50,598" and substitute with "21,534"

AND

Page 9, line 34, delete "50,000" and substitute with "150,000"

AND

Page 9, line 35, delete "230,000" and substitute with "30,000"

AND

Page 10, line 2, delete "COURT TECHNOLOGY GRANTS" and substitute with "DEPENDENCY NEGLECT GRANTS"

AND

Page 10, line 2, delete "200,000" and substitute with "140,000"

AND

Page 10, line 3, delete "\$1,034,725" and substitute with "\$756,134"

AND

Page 11, line 28, delete "250,000" and substitute with "500,000"

AND

Page 11, line 29, delete "\$389,908" and substitute with "\$639,908"

AND

Page 12, delete SECTION 23 in its entirety

AND

Page 16, immediately following SECTION 32, insert a new SECTION to read as follows:

" SECTION 33. 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, 2025, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025
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(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/AID	<u>1,700,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$4,500,000"</u></u>

AND

Page 19, immediately following SECTION 36, insert a new SECTION to read as follows:

" SECTION 37. 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, 2024 through June 30, 2025."

AND

Appropriately renumber all SECTIONS of the bill.

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and _____

By: Joint Budget Committee
JAR/RJA - 04-09-2024 11:13:01
JAR093

Secretary

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Fiscal Session, 2024

A Bill

SENATE BILL 28

4
5 By: Joint Budget Committee

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES
9 AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
10 OF THE COURTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30,
11 2025; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

15 AN ACT FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF
16 THE COURTS APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2024-
17 2025 FISCAL YEAR.

18
19
20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

21
22 SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - OPERATIONS. There is hereby established
23 for the Administrative Office of the Courts for the 2024-2025 fiscal year,
24 the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2024-2025
30	(1) Q004N	AOC DIRECTOR	1	GRADE SE04
31	(2) Q260C	AOC COURT APPLICATIONS BUSINESS DIR	1	GRADE IT12
32	(3) D143C	AOC JUDICIAL CHIEF IT SECURITY ARCHITECT	1	GRADE IT11
33	(4) Q088C	AOC COMPUTER SUPPORT MANAGER	1	GRADE IT09
34	(5) Q219C	AOC DATA QUALITY MANAGER	1 ²	GRADE IT09
35	(6) Q114C	AOC COMPUTER SUPPORT ANALYST II	2	GRADE IT08
36	(7) Q048C	AOC SOFTWARE ENGINEER	2	GRADE IT08



1	(8)	Q070C AOC REGIONAL FUNCTIONAL SPECIALIST	6	GRADE IT07
2	(9)	Q082C AOC INTERPRETER SC:L	1	GRADE IT06
3	(10)	Q008N AOC DEPUTY DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS15
4	(11)	Q009C AOC MANAGING ATTORNEY	2	GRADE GS15
5	(12)	Q019C AOC SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY	3	GRADE GS14
6	(13)	Q050C AOC COURT INTERPRETER SERVICES DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS13
7	(14)	Q071C AOC FISCAL OFFICER	1	GRADE GS13
8	(15)	Q058C AOC JUDICIAL BRANCH EDUCATION DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS12
9	(16)	Q104C AOC PERSONNEL MANAGER	2	GRADE GS12
10	(17)	Q014C AOC SPECIALTY COURT COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS12
11	(18)	Q069C AOC CASA COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS11
12	(19)	G309C AOC GRANTS MANAGER	1	GRADE GS11
13	(20)	Q258C AOC JUVENILE JUSTICE SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS11
14	(21)	Q089C AOC OFFICE MANAGER	1	GRADE GS11
15	(22)	Q057C AOC PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER	1	GRADE GS10
16	(23)	Q081C AOC SPANISH INTERPRETER	4	GRADE GS10
17	(24)	Q289C AOC DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS09
18	(25)	Q113C AOC EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT	5	GRADE GS08
19	(26)	Q102C AOC JUDICIAL EDUCATION SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS08
20	(27)	A142C AOC PAYROLL SERVICES SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS08
21	(28)	Q105C AOC RESEARCH ANALYST	<u>1</u>	GRADE GS08
22		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	46 47	

SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP - OPERATIONS. There is hereby authorized, for the Administrative Office of the Courts - Operations for the 2024-2025 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

1	(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$100,000
2	(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	10,000
3	(C) PROF. FEES	10,000
4	(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
5	(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
6	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 2024-2025 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2024-2025
(1)	Q047C	AOC CIP DATA ANALYST	1	GRADE IT08
(2)	Q056C	AOC CIP PROGRAM MANAGER	<u>1</u>	GRADE GS12
		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	2 <u>1</u>	

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, 2025, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$154,127 <u>\$64,600</u>
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	50,598 <u>\$21,534</u>
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	350,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	50,000
(C) PROF. FEES	230,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0