

**BUREAU OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (0011) &
DISBURSING OFFICER (0012)
FISCAL YEARS 2018 & 2019
PER AGENCY REQUEST**

I) AGENCY SUMMARY & REVENUE SOURCES

MISSION

The Bureau of Legislative Research (BLR) of the Arkansas Legislative Council was established in 1947 as a service agency within the legislative department of government and its employees are employees of the Arkansas General Assembly. The BLR operates under the control and direction of the Arkansas Legislative Council and provides to legislators: bill drafting services, staffing of legislative committees, research materials and reports, a legislative reference library, staff assistance with various budgetary and fiscal issues/processes, and performs a variety of other duties as may be directed by the Arkansas Legislative Council or General Assembly.

TOTAL APPROPRIATION

The total operations appropriation for FY2018 & FY2019 is \$17,299,781.

The Director of the Bureau of Legislative Research acts as disbursing officer for the payment of interim committee study expenses, payment of legislative per diem, mileage and expenses for attendance at interim committee meetings, and payment of the state's contributions to the Energy Council. The total for these appropriations is \$2,033,262 for FY2018 & FY2019.

FUNDING SOURCE

The Bureau of Legislative Research is funded from the State Central Services Fund.

II) CHANGE LEVEL REQUESTS

OPERATIONS

Requested at \$17,299,781 each year which is \$400,000 over base level for restoration of capital outlay to FY2017 authorized level.

III) ADDITIONAL POSITIONS (Total FY2017 Authorized Positions:130)

Total Positions FY2019:130
Total Positions FY2018:130
Total Base Level Positions FY2017:130
Increase/(Decrease):0

Extra Help Positions FY2018 & FY2019:31 (Total FY2017 Authorized Extra Help:31)

IV) SPECIAL LANGUAGE

TRANSFER PROVISION - LINE ITEMS: Allows the Director to direct the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State to transfer appropriation between the appropriations in the Act.

COST OF LIVING INCREASES: Provides that Bureau employees having a labor grade shall be eligible for cost of living increases equal to other state employees, and any additional adjustments in annual salary rates for Bureau employees shall be made at the discretion of the Director of the Bureau.

DISBURSING OFFICER: Establishes the Director of the Bureau as the disbursing officer for all of the appropriations in operations appropriation act which includes the appropriations for Interim Committee Study Expenses.

***NEW LANGUAGE* CODE AMENDMENT LEGAL COUNSEL:** Amends ACA 10-3-303 to include employing outside legal counsel after receiving approval from the Executive Subcommittee of Legislative Council.