

**D**

1 State of Arkansas  
2 91st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2017

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1247

4  
5 By: Joint Budget Committee  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR MISCELLANEOUS  
9 GRANTS AND EXPENSES AND VARIOUS AGENCY TRANSFERS FOR  
10 THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION -  
11 DISBURSING OFFICER FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE  
12 30, 2018; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
13  
14

## Subtitle

15 AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND  
16 ADMINISTRATION - DISBURSING OFFICER  
17 APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2017-2018 FISCAL  
18 YEAR.  
19  
20  
21

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
23

24 SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - STATE'S CONTRIBUTIONS. There is hereby  
25 appropriated, to the Department of Finance and Administration - Disbursing  
26 Officer, to be payable from the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for  
27 disbursements for Arkansas' contribution to various interstate organizations  
28 by the Department of Finance and Administration - Disbursing Officer for the  
29 fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, the following:  
30

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2017-2018</u>
(01) NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS	\$135,000
(02) NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF INSURANCE LEGISLATORS	10,000
(03) NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE	



SECTION 39. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER PROCEDURES - PERSONAL SERVICES OVERTIME. In the event that there is not sufficient appropriation provided for by the General Assembly for overtime compensation pursuant to Arkansas Code 19-4-1612 and related personal services matching for any state agency for the period ending June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018, said agency shall request a transfer from appropriations provided for Overtime in the Miscellaneous Transfers Section, herein, from the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, stating clearly the amount required. Upon approval of the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, and after seeking prior review by the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, the State Auditor shall be notified as to the amount and the purposes for which said appropriation is to be made. The appropriation shall be established upon the books of the Department of Finance and Administration and the State Auditor. Provided, further, that if desired, said appropriation shall be supplemental to those regularly appropriated for such purposes by the General Assembly for that agency.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~ 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

SECTION 46. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER PROCEDURES - PERSONAL SERVICES AND REGULAR SALARIES. In the event that the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State determines that the General Assembly has not provided sufficient appropriation for the payment of Personal Services for any office of an elected Constitutional Officer, including the Bureau of Legislative Research, Division of Legislative Audit or the Judicial Department, a any state agency, office, board, commission, institution or institution of higher education due to the enactment of this Act or any other Act approved by the General Assembly which raises the compensation level or required benefit matching costs of state employees, the agency, office, board, commission, institution of higher education or other institution may request a transfer from the appropriation provided herein from the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State. Such request shall clearly state the amount required, the fund or fund account from which the employees are currently being paid, and such other information as may be required by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State that he deems necessary to make a decision regarding the request. Upon the approval of the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, and upon review by the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee or upon processing the request for elected Constitutional Officers and their employees by the Chief Fiscal

Officer of the State, the State Auditor shall be notified as to the amount and the purposes for which said appropriation is to be made. In the event that appropriation for the payment of Personal Services is not sufficient for the last payroll of the fiscal year, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State may approve any transfers on an emergency basis and provide a report to the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee. The appropriation shall then be added to the proper account on the books of the Department of Finance and Administration and the State Auditor payable from the fund or fund account from which the employees of the state agency, office, board, commission, institution of higher education or other institution are authorized to be paid by law. Such appropriation transfers shall be limited to Regular Salaries or Personal Services Matching or both.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~ 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

SECTION 48. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. PUBLIC DEFENDER. The appropriation provided in the Public Defender ~~Contract~~ Reimbursement line item of the Miscellaneous Grants and Expenses Section herein shall be expended only for the purpose of ~~contracting with~~ reimbursing the Public Defender of Pulaski County to provide defense for the mentally ill.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~ 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

SECTION 62. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER PROCEDURES - PERSONAL SERVICES STIPENDS PER DIEM MATCHING. If there is not sufficient appropriation, from funds deposited in the State Treasury or Cash Accounts of an agency, for personal services, or personal services matching for any state agency for the period ending June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018, for State agencies that process payroll through the Arkansas Administrative Statewide Information System for federal and state tax reporting as necessary to comply with the payment of stipends under United States Internal Revenue Code (IRC), 2001-Code-Vol, Sec 3401 and Treasury Regulations §31.3401(c)-1(a) and §1.1402(c)-2(b), and others which govern the reporting of income and payment of withholding and matching taxes for personal services, the agency shall request a transfer from appropriation provided for Personal Services and Personal Services Matching in the appropriation for Various State Agencies - U.S. IRC and Treasury Regulations herein, from the Chief Fiscal

Officer of the State, stating clearly the amounts required for each item. Upon approval of the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, the State Auditor shall be notified as to the amount and the purposes for which the appropriation is to be made and such appropriation as needed shall be established upon the books of the Department of Finance and Administration and the State Auditor. Provided, however, that in the event the total amount of transfer requested in any fiscal year exceeds Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall seek prior review by the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee before the transfer shall be made.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~ 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

SECTION 64. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER AUTHORIZED - ARKANSAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL BURN CENTER. ~~The Arkansas Children's Hospital may request the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State to transfer the sum of not to exceed \$1,000,000 each fiscal year from the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account from funds made available by this Act for the Arkansas Children's Hospital Burn Center to the Department of Human Services Grants Fund Account. The transferred funds shall be used to match federal funds used for supplemental Medicaid payments to Arkansas Children's Hospital.~~

The Arkansas Children's Hospital may request the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State to transfer funds made available for the following by this Act sums not to exceed \$1,000,000 for the Arkansas Children's Hospital Burn Center, \$700,000 for the Children's Hospital Payments, \$600,000 for the Reproductive Health Monitoring, and \$233,600 for the Intensive Care Nursery each fiscal year from the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account to the Department of Human Services Grants Fund Account. The transferred funds shall be used to match federal funds used for supplemental Medicaid payments to Arkansas Children's Hospital.

The Arkansas Children's Hospital may also request the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State to transfer the sum not to exceed \$1,000,000 each fiscal year from the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account from funds made available by this Act for the Intensive Care Nursery to the Department of Human Services Grants Fund Account. The transferred funds shall be used to match federal Medicaid funds for cost-based reimbursement for helicopter patient transport.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~ 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

SECTION 67. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER PROCEDURES – PERSONAL SERVICES EXTRA HELP. In the event that there is not sufficient appropriation provided for by the General Assembly for payment of personal services related to Extra Help for any state agency for the period ending June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018, said agency may request a transfer from appropriations provided for personal services Extra Help in the Miscellaneous Transfers Section herein, from the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, stating clearly the amount required. Upon approval of the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, and after seeking prior review by the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, the State Auditor shall be notified as to the amount and the purposes for which said appropriation is to be made. The appropriation shall then be established upon the books of the Department of Finance and Administration and the State Auditor. Provided further, that if desired, said appropriation shall be supplemental to those regularly appropriated for such purposes by the General Assembly for the agency.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~ 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 91st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2017  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1282

5 By: Joint Budget Committee  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES  
9 AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC  
10 EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
11 ENDING JUNE 30, 2018; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
12  
13

## Subtitle

14 AN ACT FOR THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
15 RETIREMENT SYSTEM APPROPRIATION FOR THE  
16 2017-2018 FISCAL YEAR.  
17  
18  
19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
21

22 SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES. There is hereby established for the  
23 Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System for the 2017-2018 fiscal year,  
24 the following maximum number of regular employees.  
25

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2017-2018
30	(1) U014U	APERS DIRECTOR	1	\$178,325
31	(2) U078U	APERS DEPUTY DIRECTOR	1	\$114,029
32	(3) A003N	SENIOR INVESTMENT ANALYST	1	GRADE N910
33	(4) N096N	APERS ASST DIRECTOR OF FINANCE	1	GRADE N906
34	(5) G042N	APERS CHIEF LEGAL COUNSEL	1	GRADE N906
35	(6) R003N	APERS DIRECTOR OF BENEFITS ADMIN	1	GRADE N906
36	(7) D015N	APERS DIRECTOR OF INFO TECHNOLOGY	1	GRADE N906



SECTION 10. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. JUDICIAL RETIREMENT FUND TRANSFERS. A sum not to exceed ~~\$58,301~~ \$60,050 in the ~~2016-2017~~ 2017-2018 fiscal year may be transferred from the Judges Retirement Fund to the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System Fund for costs incurred by the Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System in administering the Judicial Retirement System. Such transfer request shall be made to the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, and upon his approval, said transfer shall be made on his books and those of the Treasurer of the State and the Auditor of the State.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~ 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.

SECTION 11. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. STATE POLICE RETIREMENT FUND TRANSFERS. A sum not to exceed ~~\$107,463~~ \$110,687 in the ~~2016-2017~~ 2017-2018 fiscal year may be transferred from the State Police Retirement Fund to the Arkansas Public Employees' Retirement System Fund for costs incurred by the Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System in administering the State Police Retirement System. Such transfer request shall be made to the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, and upon his approval, said transfer shall be made on his books and those of the Treasurer of the State and the Auditor of the State.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~ 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.



1 State of Arkansas  
2 91st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2017

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 168

4  
5 By: Joint Budget Committee  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR GRANTS AND AID TO  
9 LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS FOR THE  
10 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING  
11 JUNE 30, 2018; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
12  
13

## Subtitle

14 AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION -  
15 GRANTS AND AID TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS  
16 AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS APPROPRIATION FOR  
17 THE 2017-2018 FISCAL YEAR.  
18  
19  
20

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
22

23 SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - GRANTS AND AID TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND  
24 SPECIAL PROGRAMS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of  
25 Education, to be payable from the Department of Education Public School Fund  
26 Account, for grants and aid to local school districts and special programs of  
27 the Department of Education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, the  
28 following:  
29

30 ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
31 NO.	2017-2018
32 (01) 98% URT ACTUAL COLLECTION ADJUSTMENT	34,500,000
33 (02) ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE	
34 HEALTH INSURANCE	\$15,000,000
35 (03) ADVANCED PLACEMENT INCENTIVE	825,000
36 (04) ALTERNATIVE LEARNING	26,394,317



SECTION 31. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT. Of the total amount appropriated for Professional Development Funding, three million five hundred thousand dollars (\$3,500,000) may be authorized by the Commissioner of the Department of Education to be used by the Department of Education to develop and implement statewide professional development support systems for teachers that will benefit student achievement.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 91st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2017

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 196

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 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
10 SERVICES - DIVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE  
11 FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018; AND FOR OTHER  
12 PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

15 AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
16 SERVICES - DIVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES  
17 APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2017-2018 FISCAL  
18 YEAR.  
19

20  
21  
22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

23  
24 SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - OPERATIONS. There is hereby established  
25 for the Department of Human Services - Division of Medical Services for the  
26 2017-2018 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2017-2018
32	(1) N181N	DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES	1	GRADE N915
33	(2) L016N	REGISTERED PHARMACIST	6	GRADE N911
34	(3) N189N	DHS/DMS DEPUTY DIRECTOR	1	GRADE N908
35	(4) N080N	DHS/DMS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - FISCAL	1	GRADE N907
36	(5) N099N	DHS/DMS ADD - LONG TERM CARE	1	GRADE N906



SECTION 14. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. ~~HEALTH CARE INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM~~ ARKANSAS WORKS AND ARKANSAS HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE RESTRICTIONS. (a) As used in this section, "~~Health Care Independence Program Arkansas Works~~" means ~~the Health Care Independence Program Arkansas Works~~ established under the ~~Health Care Independence Act of 2013, Arkansas Code § 20-77-2401 et seq.~~ Arkansas Works Act of 2016, Arkansas Code § 23-61-1001 et seq.

(b)(1) Determining the maximum number of employees, the maximum amount of appropriation, for what purposes an appropriation is authorized, and general revenue funding for a state agency each fiscal year is the prerogative of the General Assembly.

(2) The purposes of subdivision (b)(1) of this section are typically accomplished by:

(A) Identifying the purpose in the appropriation act;

(B) Delineating such maximums in the appropriation act for a state agency; and

(C) Delineating the general revenue allocations authorized for each fund and fund account by amendment to the Revenue Stabilization Law, Arkansas Code § 19-5-101 et seq.

(3) It is both necessary and appropriate that the General Assembly restrict the use of appropriations authorized in this act.

(c)(1) Except as provided in this subsection, the Department of Human Services shall not allocate, budget, expend, or utilize any appropriation authorized by the General Assembly for the purpose of advertisement, promotion, or other activities designed to promote or encourage enrollment in the Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace or ~~the Health Care Independence Program~~ Arkansas Works, including without limitation:

(A) Unsolicited communications mailed to potential recipients;

(B) Television, radio, or online commercials;

(C) Billboard or mobile billboard advertising;

(D) Advertisements printed in newspapers, magazines, or other print media; and

(E) Internet websites and electronic media.

(2) This subsection does not prohibit the department from:

(A) Direct communications with:

(i) Licensed insurance agents; and

(ii) Persons licensed by the department;

(B) Solicited communications with potential recipients;

(C)(i) Responding to an inquiry regarding the coverage for which

a potential recipient might be eligible, including without limitation providing educational materials or information regarding any coverage for which the individual might qualify.

(ii) Educational materials and information distributed under subdivision (c)(2)(C)(i) of this section shall contain only factual information and shall not contain subjective statements regarding the coverage for which the potential recipient might be eligible; and

(D) Using an Internet website for the exclusive purpose of enrolling individuals in the Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace or ~~the Health Care Independence Program~~ Arkansas Works.

(d) The Department of Human Services shall not apply for or accept any funds, including without limitation federal funds, for the purpose of advertisement, promotion, or other activities designed to promote or encourage enrollment in the Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace or ~~the Health Care Independence Program~~ Arkansas Works.

(e)(1) Except as provided in subdivision (e)(2) of this section, the Department of Human Services shall not:

(A)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (e)(1)(A)(ii) of this section, allocate, budget, expend, or utilize an appropriation authorized by the General Assembly for the purpose of funding activities of navigators, guides, certified application counselors, and certified licensed producers under the Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace Navigator, Guide, and Certified Application Counselors Act, Arkansas Code § 23-64-601 et seq.

(ii) Subdivision (e)(1)(A)(i) of this section does not apply to regulatory and training responsibilities related to navigators, guides, certified application counselors, and certified licensed producers; and

(B) Apply for or accept any funds, including without limitation federal funds, for the purpose of funding activities of navigators, guides, certified application counselors, and certified licensed producers under the Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace Navigator, Guide, and Certified Application Counselors Act, Arkansas Code § 23-64-601 et seq.

(2) Subdivision (e)(1) of this section does not apply to certified application counselors at health related institutions, including without limitation the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

(f) An appropriation authorized by the General Assembly shall not be subject to the provisions allowed through reallocation of resources or transfer of appropriation authority for the purpose of transferring an appropriation to any other appropriation authorized for the Department of Human Services to be allocated, budgeted, expended, or utilized in a manner prohibited by this section.

(g) The provisions of this section are severable, and the invalidity of any subsection or subdivision of this section shall not affect other provisions of the section that can be given effect without the invalid provision.

(h) This section expires on June 30, 2017 2018.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 91st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2017  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 199

5 By: Joint Budget Committee  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES  
9 AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
10 SERVICES - DIVISION OF STATE SERVICES FOR THE BLIND  
11 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018; AND FOR  
12 OTHER PURPOSES.  
13  
14

## Subtitle

15 AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN  
16 SERVICES - DIVISION OF STATE SERVICES FOR  
17 THE BLIND APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2017-2018  
18 FISCAL YEAR.  
19  
20  
21

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
23

24 SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - OPERATIONS. There is hereby established  
25 for the Department of Human Services - Division of State Services for the  
26 Blind for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular  
27 employees.  
28

Item	Class		Maximum	Maximum Annual
No.	Code	Title	No. of	Salary Rate
			Employees	Fiscal Year
				2017-2018
33	(1) N125N	DHS DEP DIR SVCS FOR THE BLIND	1	GRADE N904
34	(2) G021C	DHS/DSB ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	1	GRADE C127
35	(3) G099C	DHS PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR	1	GRADE C122
36	(4) A050C	AGENCY FISCAL MANAGER	1	GRADE C121



SECTION 4. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT. The Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1992, commonly referred to as the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD), requires State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies to establish qualified personnel standards for rehabilitation personnel, including Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors, that are consistent with any national or State-approved or recognized certification, licensing, or registration that apply to a particular profession. In order to comply with the Rehabilitation Act and its State Plan requirements, there is hereby authorized for the Department of Human Services, Division of State Services for the Blind a general waiver of the Financial Management Guide, R1-19-4-522 Continuing Professional Education. This waiver allows the agency to provide college level coursework in degree programs for ~~Rehabilitation Counselors~~ any eligible employees selected by the agency. This provision covers any and all formula and discretionary grants funded by the U.S. Department of Education Rehabilitation Services Administration, now or in the future, including, but not limited to, the Vocational Rehabilitation Program, Supported Employment, Independent Living, and the Staff Development Grant. No state general revenue shall be expended for the tuition in pursuit of a degree authorized herein.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2016~~ 2017 through June 30, ~~2017~~ 2018.