

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

SENATE BILL 331

By: Joint Budget Committee

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION TO THE ARKANSAS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FOR CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, GRANTS, AND PROGRAMS; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE ARKANSAS ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION - CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, GRANTS AND PROGRAMS
GENERAL IMPROVEMENT APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - GENERAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, to be payable from the General Improvement Fund or its successor fund or fund accounts, the following:

(A) for a transfer to the Economic Development Incentive Quick Action Closing Fund, for incentives to attract new business and economic development to the state, in a sum not to exceed.....\$50,000,000.

(B) for funding for an investment in Arkansas' workforce through training incentives for companies located in Arkansas to upgrade skills of their existing workforce, or for a potential new workforce, and to build capacity within Arkansas to supply on-going training needs of Arkansas companies and to increase participation in the State's school-to-work initiatives, in a sum not to exceed.....\$3,000,000.

(C) for payments on bonds issued for economic development projects



authorized under Amendment 82 to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas of 1874, in a sum not to exceed.....\$7,000,000.

(D) for funding for grants and/or loans to state agencies, cities, counties, community-based non-profit organizations and other eligible entities to undertake public works projects and/or job training efforts which support private sector job creation opportunities, alleviate conditions which constitute a threat to public health and well being, or partially defray the costs of providing access to publicly owned industrial parks, and/or technology parks; to provide grants and/or loans for the expansion of the aircraft and aerospace industry; grants and/or loans for port and waterway economic development projects; grants and/or loans for technology based economic development projects; grants and/or loans for industrial site development costs (including, but not limited to land acquisition, construction, renovation, and equipment acquisition); development of intermodal facilities (including, but not limited to port and waterway projects, rail spur construction and road and highway improvements); grants and/or loans to pay the costs of environmental mitigation projects; and for construction and/or improvement of water and sewer systems, in a sum not to exceed.....\$20,000,000.

(E) for funding for grants and/or loans to state agencies, cities, counties, community-based non-profit organizations and other eligible entities to support economic stimulus activities throughout the State, in a sum not to exceed.....\$10,000,000.

(F) for a transfer to the Arkansas Acceleration Fund for the Arkansas business technology accelerator program, in a sum not to exceed\$2,000,000.

(G) for allocation by the Executive Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission for activities associated with the implementation of the State's strategic plan for economic development, in a sum not to exceed.....\$500,000.

SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM - CREATE REBATE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, to be payable from the Economic Development Incentive Fund of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, the following:

(A) for financial incentives to companies locating a new facility or

expanding an existing facility within the State of Arkansas and for companies that hire and maintain specified levels of employment, as identified in signed financial agreements, in a sum not to exceed.....\$37,500,000.

SECTION 3. DISBURSEMENT CONTROLS. (A) No contract may be awarded nor obligations otherwise incurred in relation to the project or projects described herein in excess of the State Treasury funds actually available therefor as provided by law. Provided, however, that institutions and agencies listed herein shall have the authority to accept and use grants and donations including Federal funds, and to use its unobligated cash income or funds, or both available to it, for the purpose of supplementing the State Treasury funds for financing the entire costs of the project or projects enumerated herein. Provided further, that the appropriations and funds otherwise provided by the General Assembly for Maintenance and General Operations of the agency or institutions receiving appropriation herein shall not be used for any of the purposes as appropriated in this act.

(B) The restrictions of any applicable provisions of the State Purchasing Law, the General Accounting and Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law and any other applicable fiscal control laws of this State and regulations promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be strictly complied with in disbursement of any funds provided by this act unless specifically provided otherwise by law.

SECTION 4. 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 5. 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, 2017 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, 2017 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, 2017.