

Stricken language will be deleted and underlined language will be added.

State of Arkansas  
93rd General Assembly  
Fiscal Session, 2022

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 27

By: Joint Budget Committee

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES  
AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC  
DEFENDER COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE  
30, 2023; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC DEFENDER  
COMMISSION APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2022-  
2023 FISCAL YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - STATE OPERATIONS. There is hereby established for the Arkansas Public Defender Commission - State Operations for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2022-2023
(1)	U082U	PUBLIC DEF COMM EXEC DIRECTOR	1	GRADE SE02
(2)	G012N	PUBLIC DEFENDER III	9	GRADE GS13
(3)	G076C	ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES MANAGER	1	GRADE GS10
(4)	X056C	CAPITAL CONFLICTS INVESTIGATOR	2	GRADE GS07
(5)	G146C	MITIGATION SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS07
(6)	G179C	LEGAL SERVICES SPECIALIST	2	GRADE GS06



(7) G122C PUBLIC DEFENDER PROGRAM COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS06
(8) C012C PUBLIC DEFENDER SUPT SVCS SPECIALIST	2	GRADE GS05
(9) C056C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST III	<u>1</u>	GRADE GS04
MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	20	

SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP - STATE OPERATIONS. There is hereby authorized, for the Arkansas Public Defender Commission - State Operations for the 2022-2023 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: three (3) 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 - STATE OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas Public Defender Commission, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the Arkansas Public Defender Commission - State Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$1,484,012
(02) EXTRA HELP	12,000
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	446,684
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	247,648
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	19,690
(C) PROF. FEES	925,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$3,135,034</u></u>

SECTION 4. REGULAR SALARIES - TRIAL PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE. There is hereby established for the Arkansas Public Defender Commission - Trial Public Defender Office for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the following maximum number

of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum	Maximum Annual
			No. of Employees	Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2022-2023
(1)	D039C	NETWORK SUPPORT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE IT06
(2)	D022C	SYSTEMS SPECIALIST	1	GRADE IT06
(3)	G008N	CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER	8	GRADE GS14
(4)	G012N	PUBLIC DEFENDER III	161	GRADE GS13
(5)	R014C	PERSONNEL MANAGER	1	GRADE GS08
(6)	G092C	PUBLIC DEFENDER PROGRAM MANAGER	1	GRADE GS08
(7)	X056C	CAPITAL CONFLICTS INVESTIGATOR	6	GRADE GS07
(8)	G146C	MITIGATION SPECIALIST	12	GRADE GS07
(9)	G242C	DRUG COURT CASE COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS06
(10)	R025C	HUMAN RESOURCES ANALYST	1	GRADE GS06
(11)	G179C	LEGAL SERVICES SPECIALIST	9	GRADE GS06
(12)	G204C	PLANNING SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS06
(13)	G194C	PUBLIC DEFENDER INTERPRETER	2	GRADE GS06
(14)	X063C	PUBLIC DEFENDER INVESTIGATOR	4	GRADE GS06
(15)	G122C	PUBLIC DEFENDER PROGRAM COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS06
(16)	C012C	PUBLIC DEFENDER SUPT SVCS SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS05
(17)	C046C	LEGAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	<u>47</u>	GRADE GS04
MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES			258	

SECTION 5. EXTRA HELP - TRIAL PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE. There is hereby authorized, for the Arkansas Public Defender Commission - Trial Public Defender Office for the 2022-2023 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: three (3) 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 6. APPROPRIATION - TRIAL PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas Public Defender Commission, to be

payable from the State Central Services Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the Arkansas Public Defender Commission - Trial Public Defender Office for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$18,472,279
(02) EXTRA HELP	15,000
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	5,693,129
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	641,256
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	34,000
(C) PROF. FEES	725,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(05) PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION PROGRAMS	770,000
(06) BAIL BOND COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER	<u>300,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$26,650,664</u></u>

SECTION 7. REGULAR SALARIES - OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM. There is hereby established for the Arkansas Public Defender Commission - Ombudsman Program for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item Class	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2022-2023
No. Code Title		
(1) G108C PUBLIC DEF OMBUDSMAN COORDINATOR	<u>1</u>	GRADE GS08
MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	1	

SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas Public Defender Commission, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for personal services of the Arkansas Public Defender Commission - Ombudsman Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the following:

ITEM NO.		FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023
(01)	REGULAR SALARIES	\$56,685
(02)	PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	<u>18,567</u>
	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$75,252</u></u>

SECTION 9. REGULAR SALARIES - COMMISSION FOR PARENT COUNSEL. There is hereby established for the Arkansas Public Defender Commission - Commission for Parent Counsel for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2022-2023
(1)	G296C	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PARENT COUNSEL	1	GRADE GS13
(2)	G025C	ATTORNEY SUPERVISOR	2	GRADE GS12
(3)	G047C	ATTORNEY SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS11
(4)	G297C	EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT PARENT COUNSEL	1	GRADE GS06
(5)	G179C	LEGAL SERVICES SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS06
(6)	C046C	LEGAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	<u>1</u>	GRADE GS04
		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	7	

SECTION 10. EXTRA HELP - COMMISSION FOR PARENT COUNSEL. There is hereby authorized, for the Arkansas Public Defender Commission - Commission for Parent Counsel for the 2022-2023 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: fourteen (14) 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 11. APPROPRIATION - COMMISSION FOR PARENT COUNSEL. There is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas Public Defender Commission, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for personal services,

operating expenses and parent counsel refunds/reimbursements of the Commission for Parent Counsel for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR <u>2022-2023</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$467,876
(02) EXTRA HELP	310,000
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	170,543
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	50,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	10,000
(C) PROF. FEES	75,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(05) PARENT COUNSEL REIMBURSEMENTS	<u>3,600,231</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$4,683,650</u></u>

SECTION 12. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. INDIGENT PARENT COUNSEL REPRESENTATION. The Commission for Parent Counsel shall have the authority to use the appropriation provided in line item Parent Counsel Reimbursements of the Parent Counsel Program appropriation herein for the purpose of entering into independent professional service contracts on a full-time or part-time basis with attorneys who are qualified to provide counsel for indigent parents in dependency-neglect cases.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2021~~ 2022 through June 30, ~~2022~~ 2023.

SECTION 13. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER PROVISION – LINE ITEMS - COMMISSION FOR PARENT COUNSEL. After receiving approval from the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and prior review by the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, the Director of the Arkansas Public Defender Commission is authorized to transfer appropriation, with the exception of Personal Services Matching, between the line items

authorized herein for the Commission for Parent Counsel, to best utilize resources to meet the needs of the Parent Counsel's clientele.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2021~~ 2022 through June 30, ~~2022~~ 2023.

SECTION 14. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. EXTRA HELP EXEMPTION - COMMISSION FOR PARENT COUNSEL. Extra Help positions authorized herein for the Commission for Parent Counsel are specifically exempt from limitation of hours. Employees currently working on a part-time basis may be utilized concurrently as Extra Help within the agency. The total amount of compensation for part-time and Extra Help work combined cannot exceed the maximum compensation allowed for a grade GS11 as authorized in the Uniform Classification and Compensation Act. Flexibility is needed to allow for non-traditional work schedules that may be necessary to accommodate the schedule of the individual being represented. Attorneys utilized as Extra Help employees are not prevented from having other employment.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2021~~ 2022 through June 30, ~~2022~~ 2023.

SECTION 15. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. TRANSFER PROVISION. If the Public Defender Commission should determine that the appropriations made available for payments to the Counties are insufficient, appropriation may be transferred from the Public Defender Commission Program line item to the Bail Bond-County Public Defender line item, after receiving approval of the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2021~~ 2022 through June 30, ~~2022~~ 2023.

SECTION 16. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. PUBLIC DEFENDERS. (a) No funds appropriated herein shall be used for expenses in cases where a defendant is represented by retained counsel where retained counsel have not gone through the Public Defender Commission's attorney certification procedure and designation process as established by state law

and the Commission's regulations. All defendants and retained attorneys must strictly adhere to the procedure established by the Commission to equitably and responsibly monitor and distribute State funds for this purpose.

(b) The Public Defender Commission may approve exemptions to subsection (a) as needed. Reasons for granting exemption should be specified in writing.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2021~~ 2022 through June 30, ~~2022~~ 2023.

SECTION 17. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS. Disbursement of funds authorized by this act shall be limited to the appropriation for such agency and funds made available by law for the support of such appropriations; and the restrictions of the State Procurement Law, the General Accounting and Budgetary Procedures Law, the Revenue Stabilization Law, the Regular Salary Procedures and Restrictions Act, or their successors, and other fiscal control laws of this State, where applicable, and regulations promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration, as authorized by law, shall be strictly complied with in disbursement of said funds.

SECTION 18. 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 19. EFFECTIVE DATE. This act is effective on and after July 1, 2022.