

State of Arkansas  
94th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2023

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1081

By: Joint Budget Committee

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES  
AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
- ARKANSAS REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR THE FISCAL  
YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE -  
ARKANSAS REHABILITATION SERVICES  
APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2023-2024 FISCAL  
YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES. There is hereby established for the  
Department of Commerce - Arkansas Rehabilitation Services for the 2023-2024  
fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate
				Fiscal Year 2023-2024
(1)	U012U	REHABILITATION SERVICES COMMISSIONER	1	GRADE SE01
(2)	L013N	GENERAL PHYSICIAN	2	GRADE MP06
(3)	L021N	PHYSICAL THERAPIST	1	GRADE MP03
(4)	L003C	PSYCHOLOGIST	2	GRADE MP03
(5)	L022N	OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST	3	GRADE MP02
(6)	L032C	REGISTERED NURSE - HOSPITAL	2	GRADE MP01



(7)	D006N STATE SYSTEMS ARCHITECT	1	GRADE IT10
(8)	N178N ACOM ARS CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER	1	GRADE IT09
(9)	D022N IT SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER	1	GRADE IT09
(10)	D012C DATABASE SPECIALIST	1	GRADE IT08
(11)	D028C SENIOR SOFTWARE SUPPORT SPECIALIST	3	GRADE IT07
(12)	D038C SENIOR SOFTWARE SUPPORT ANALYST	2	GRADE IT06
(13)	D022C SYSTEMS SPECIALIST	1	GRADE IT06
(14)	D063C COMPUTER SUPPORT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE IT05
(15)	D052C SOFTWARE SUPPORT ANALYST	1	GRADE IT05
(16)	D064C WEBSITE DEVELOPER	1	GRADE IT04
(17)	N172N ACOM REHAB OPERATIONS DIRECTOR	3	GRADE GS13
(18)	G004C MANAGING ATTORNEY	1	GRADE GS13
(19)	P078C ACOM ARS DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS	1	GRADE GS12
(20)	N170N ACOM REHAB DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS12
(21)	N138N ACOM REHAB DIRECTOR FIELD SVCS	1	GRADE GS12
(22)	A014C FISCAL DIVISION MANAGER	1	GRADE GS12
(23)	R006C HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR	1	GRADE GS12
(24)	E005C ACOM REHAB DIR OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING	1	GRADE GS10
(25)	G040C ACOM REHAB DIRECTOR - SPECIAL PROGRAMS	3	GRADE GS10
(26)	A052C ACCOUNTING COORDINATOR	2	GRADE GS09
(27)	G070C ACOM DIRECTOR OF FIELD OPERATIONS	1	GRADE GS09
(28)	L037C ACOM REHAB AREA MANAGER	13	GRADE GS09
(29)	E011C ACOM VOCATIONAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR	3	GRADE GS09
(30)	L033C PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINER	11	GRADE GS09
(31)	X038C QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER	3	GRADE GS09
(32)	L098C CERTIFIED VOCATIONAL REHAB COUNSELOR	99	GRADE GS08
(33)	S004C MAINTENANCE MANAGER	1	GRADE GS08
(34)	V007C PROCUREMENT COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS08
(35)	X062C QUALITY ASSURANCE COORDINATOR	4	GRADE GS08
(36)	G121C REHAB PROGRAM MANAGER	8	GRADE GS08
(37)	A060C SENIOR AUDITOR	1	GRADE GS08
(38)	E023C TRAINING PROJECT MANAGER	1	GRADE GS08
(39)	G163C ACOM REHAB PROGRAM COORDINATOR	9	GRADE GS07
(40)	L057C ACOM REHAB SVS FACILITY SPECIALIST	2	GRADE GS07
(41)	M032C ACOM VOCATIONAL REHAB PLACEMENT SPEC	14	GRADE GS07
(42)	R024C ASSISTANT PERSONNEL MANAGER	1	GRADE GS07

(43)	C010C EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS07
(44)	S017C MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS07
(45)	A065C PAYROLL SERVICES COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS07
(46)	E040C STAFF DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS07
(47)	C037C ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	2	GRADE GS06
(48)	E043C CERTIFIED VOCATIONAL TEACHER	17	GRADE GS06
(49)	R025C HUMAN RESOURCES ANALYST	2	GRADE GS06
(50)	M050C INTERPRETER	4	GRADE GS06
(51)	S033C MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE GS06
(52)	P027C PUBLIC INFORMATION SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS06
(53)	T062C PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS06
(54)	B076C RESEARCH PROJECT ANALYST	1	GRADE GS06
(55)	S022C SKILLED TRADES SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE GS06
(56)	M061C ACOM VOCATIONAL REHAB EVALUATOR	1	GRADE GS05
(57)	C036C ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW ANALYST	1	GRADE GS05
(58)	C022C BUSINESS OPERATIONS SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS05
(59)	V014C BUYER	2	GRADE GS05
(60)	G215C CAREER PLANNING & PLACEMENT SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS05
(61)	A091C FISCAL SUPPORT ANALYST	5	GRADE GS05
(62)	S031C SKILLED TRADESMAN	2	GRADE GS05
(63)	E049C VOCATIONAL INSTRUCTOR	1	GRADE GS05
(64)	C056C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST III	9	GRADE GS04
(65)	A098C FISCAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	3	GRADE GS04
(66)	R036C HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS04
(67)	V020C INVENTORY CONTROL MANAGER	1	GRADE GS04
(68)	V022C PURCHASING TECHNICIAN	1	GRADE GS04
(69)	C043C RECORDS MANAGEMENT ANALYST	2	GRADE GS04
(70)	S099C STATIONARY ENGINEER	1	GRADE GS04
(71)	V023C STOREROOM SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE GS04
(72)	V025C WAREHOUSE SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS04
(73)	C073C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST II	68	GRADE GS03
(74)	S056C FOOD PREPARATION SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE GS03
(75)	V027C INVENTORY CONTROL TECHNICIAN	1	GRADE GS03
(76)	C062C LOCAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	1	GRADE GS03
(77)	M081C RESIDENTIAL CARE SHIFT SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE GS03
(78)	C087C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST I	11	GRADE GS02

(79)	S070C EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN	3	GRADE GS02
(80)	S068C FOOD PREPARATION COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS02
(81)	M076C RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY LEADER II	1	GRADE GS02
(82)	M083C RESIDENTIAL CARE TECHNICIAN	2	GRADE GS02
(83)	S086C COOK	1	GRADE GS01
(84)	S080C EQUIPMENT OPERATOR	1	GRADE GS01
(85)	S089C FOOD PREPARATION TECHNICIAN	4	GRADE GS01
(86)	S087C INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES ASSISTANT	<u>2</u>	GRADE GS01
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	377	

SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Rehabilitation Services for the 2023-2024 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: nineteen (19) 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 Department of Commerce, to be payable from the paying account as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services, operating expenses, and grants and aid by the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Rehabilitation Services - Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$17,437,863
(02) EXTRA HELP	252,000
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	6,670,935
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	7,401,096
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	141,178
(C) PROF. FEES	844,903
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0

(05) CONTRACT SERVICES	<u>25,455,389</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$58,203,364</u></u>

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - INCREASING CAPABILITIES ACCESS NETWORK - FEDERAL. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the paying account as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Rehabilitation Services - Increasing Capabilities Access Network - Federal for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$226,603
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	87,585
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	363,789
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	20,402
(C) PROF. FEES	16,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	100,000
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$814,379</u></u>

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - STATEWIDE DISABILITY TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Telecommunications Equipment Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Rehabilitation Services - Statewide Disability Telecommunications Equipment Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$127,704
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	50,621
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	60,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	7,000

(C) PROF. FEES	5,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(04) ASSISTIVE EQUIPMENT PURCHASE GRANTS	<u>250,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$500,325</u></u>

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION - PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM - SPECIAL.  
 There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities Fund, for operating expenses of the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Rehabilitation Services - People with Disabilities Program - Special for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$30,000
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$30,000</u></u>

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM.  
 There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for providing loans to individuals with disabilities for essential assistive technology, adaptive equipment, and for loan administration/servicing by the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Rehabilitation Services - Technology Equipment Revolving Loan Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024
(01) LOANS	<u><u>\$532,085</u></u>

SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION - CASH OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for operating expenses of the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Rehabilitation Services - Cash Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$346,542
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	10,000
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$356,542</u></u>

SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - WORLD SERVICES FOR THE BLIND ADULT ED. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account, for a grant to World Services for the Blind for personal services, operating expenses, equipment, curriculum and adult education programming services for costs, including, but not limited to, assistive hardware and technology, adaptive software and licenses, and retrofitting of classrooms by the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Rehabilitation Services - World Services for the Blind Adult Ed for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024
(01) GRANTS AND AID	<u><u>\$2,000,000</u></u>

SECTION 10. REGULAR SALARIES - DIVISION OF STATE SERVICES FOR THE BLIND - OPERATIONS. There is hereby established for the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Rehabilitation Services - Division of State Services for the Blind for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2023-2024
(1)	N125N	ACOM DSB DEP DIR SVCS FOR THE BLIND	1	GRADE GS15
(2)	G021C	ACOM DSB ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	1	GRADE GS11
(3)	G303C	ACOM DSB PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR	2	GRADE GS09
(4)	L037C	ACOM REHAB AREA MANAGER	3	GRADE GS09
(5)	X038C	QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER	1	GRADE GS09
(6)	L098C	CERTIFIED VOCATIONAL REHAB COUNSELOR	24	GRADE GS08
(7)	X062C	QUALITY ASSURANCE COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS08
(8)	G121C	REHAB PROGRAM MANAGER	4	GRADE GS08
(9)	E023C	TRAINING PROJECT MANAGER	1	GRADE GS08
(10)	G163C	ACOM REHAB PROGRAM COORDINATOR	2	GRADE GS07
(11)	M032C	ACOM VOCATIONAL REHAB PLACEMENT SPEC	1	GRADE GS07
(12)	E040C	STAFF DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR	1	GRADE GS07
(13)	E039C	ACOM DSB TEACHER FOR THE BLIND	1	GRADE GS06
(14)	C037C	ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	5	GRADE GS06
(15)	A074C	FISCAL SUPPORT SUPERVISOR	1	GRADE GS06
(16)	L051C	REHABILITATION COUNSELOR	2	GRADE GS06
(17)	A091C	FISCAL SUPPORT ANALYST	3	GRADE GS05
(18)	C056C	ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST III	8	GRADE GS04
(19)	A098C	FISCAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST	2	GRADE GS04
(20)	C043C	RECORDS MANAGEMENT ANALYST	1	GRADE GS04
(21)	C073C	ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST II	<u>13</u>	GRADE GS03
		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	78	

SECTION 11. EXTRA HELP - DIVISION OF STATE SERVICES FOR THE BLIND - OPERATIONS. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Rehabilitation Services - Division of State Services for the Blind for the 2023-2024 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: thirty (30) 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 12. APPROPRIATION - STATE SERVICES FOR THE BLIND - OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the paying account as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Rehabilitation Services - Division of State Services for the Blind for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$3,545,494
(02) EXTRA HELP	384,174
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	1,399,653
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	1,122,186
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	55,000
(C) PROF. FEES	195,259
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$6,701,766</u></u>

SECTION 13. APPROPRIATION - BLIND SERVICES GRANTS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Commerce, to be payable from the paying account as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for grants and aid and purchase of services of the Department of Commerce - Arkansas Rehabilitation Services - Blind Services Grants for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>
(01) GRANTS AND AID/PURCHASE OF SERVICES	<u><u>\$4,646,768</u></u>

SECTION 14. SPECIAL LANGUAGE – CODE AMENDMENT. Arkansas Code Title 25, Chapter 30, Subchapter 2, is amended to add an additional section and to codify special language in appropriation acts to read as follows:

25-30-207. Comprehensive system of personnel development.

(a) Under The Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1992, Pub. L. No. 102-569, a state vocational rehabilitation agency is required to establish qualified personnel standards for rehabilitation personnel, including vocational rehabilitation counselors, that are consistent with national or state-approved or recognized certification, licensing, or registration that apply to a particular profession.

(b)(1) In order to comply with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 701 et seq., as it existed on January 1, 2023, and state plan requirements, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services is granted a general waiver of the Financial Management Guide, R1-19-4-522 Continuing Professional Education.

(2) The waiver granted under subdivision (b)(1) of this section allows Arkansas Rehabilitation Services to provide college level coursework in a degree program for an eligible employee selected by Arkansas Rehabilitation Services.

(c) This section covers any formula and discretionary grants funded by the United States Department of Education Rehabilitation Services Administration, including without limitation the following:

- (1) The vocational rehabilitation program;
- (2) Supported employment;
- (3) Independent living; and
- (4) The staff development grant.

(d) This section applies to federal financial participation, state general revenue share, and program income.

SECTION 15. SPECIAL LANGUAGE – CODE AMENDMENT. Arkansas Code Title 25, Chapter 10, Subchapter 2, is amended to add an additional section and to codify special language in appropriation acts to read as follows:

25-10-210. Comprehensive system of personnel development.

(a) Under The Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1992, Pub. L. No. 102-569, a state vocational rehabilitation agency is required to establish qualified personnel standards for rehabilitation personnel, including vocational rehabilitation counselors, that are consistent with national or state-approved or recognized certification, licensing, or registration that apply to a particular profession.

(b)(1) In order to comply with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 701 et seq., as it existed on January 1, 2023, and state plan requirements, the Division of State Services for the Blind is granted a general waiver of the Financial Management Guide, R1-19-4-522 Continuing Professional Education.

(2) The waiver granted under subdivision (b)(1) of this section allows the division to provide college level coursework in a degree program for an eligible employee selected by the division.

(c) This section covers any formula and discretionary grants funded by the United States Department of Education Rehabilitation Services Administration, including without limitation the following:

- (1) The vocational rehabilitation program;
- (2) Supported employment;
- (3) Independent living; and
- (4) The staff development grant.

(d) State general revenue shall not be expended for tuition for a degree authorized under this section.

SECTION 16. 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 17. 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 18. 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, 2023 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, 2023 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, 2023.