

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

State of Arkansas  
94th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2023

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 69

By: Joint Budget Committee

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES AND OPERATING EXPENSES FOR TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATORS, THE OFFICIAL COURT REPORTERS OF THE CIRCUIT COURTS, JUVENILE PROBATION AND INTAKE OFFICERS AND DRUG COURT JUVENILE PROBATION AND INTAKE OFFICERS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS - COURT PERSONNEL APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATORS. There is hereby established for the Administrative Office of the Courts - Trial Court Administrators 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)	Q226C	TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR	<u>127</u>	GRADE GS08
		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	127	



SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATORS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for personal services, Trial Court Administrator Substitutes expenses and Trial Court Administrators expenses of the Trial Court Administrators of the Circuit Courts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$6,439,213
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	2,360,254
(03) TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR EXPENSES	175,000
(04) TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR SUBSTITUTES	<u>175,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$9,149,467</u></u>

SECTION 3. REGULAR SALARIES - COURT REPORTERS. There is hereby established for the Administrative Office of the Courts - Official Court Reporters of the Circuit Courts for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item	Class	Maximum	Maximum Annual
<u>No.</u>	<u>Code Title</u>	<u>No. of</u>	<u>Salary Rate</u>
		<u>Employees</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>
			<u>2023-2024</u>
(1)	Q227C COURT REPORTER	<u>127</u>	GRADE GS09
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	127	

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - COURT REPORTERS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for personal services, expenses allowance, indigent transcripts and court reporter substitutes of the Official Court Reporters of the Circuit Courts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
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NO.	2023-2024
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$7,288,361
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	2,555,205
(03) EXPENSES ALLOWANCE	350,000
(04) INDIGENT TRANSCRIPTS	600,000
(05) COURT REPORTER SUBSTITUTES	<u>375,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$11,168,566</u>

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - JUVENILE PROBATION & INTAKE OFFICERS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for reimbursement of a portion of the salaries of full-time juvenile probation and intake officers in accordance with Arkansas Code 16-13-327 and Arkansas Code 16-13-328 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024
(01) JUVENILE PROBATION & INTAKE OFFICERS	<u>\$4,618,100</u>

SECTION 6. REGULAR SALARIES - DRUG COURT JUVENILE PROBATION & INTAKE OFFICERS. There is hereby established for the Administrative Office of the Courts - Drug Court Juvenile Probation & Intake Officers 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)	Q231C DRUG COURT JUV PROB & INTAKE OFF	<u>13</u>	GRADE GS08
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	13	

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION - DRUG COURT JUVENILE PROBATION & INTAKE OFFICERS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Administrative Office of the Courts, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for personal services for the Drug Court Juvenile Probation & Intake Officers and operating expenses for the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth

(SAVRY) Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$588,810
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	225,767
(03) SAVRY PROGRAM EXPENSES	<u>87,500</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$902,077</u></u>

SECTION 8. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. CODE AMENDMENT. Arkansas Code Title 16, Chapter 10, Subchapter 1, is amended to codify special language in appropriation acts and to add an additional section to read as follows:

16-10-142. Court reporters and trial court administrators.

(a)(1) The Administrative Office of the Courts is responsible for requesting and verifying the need for any additional appropriation, any position-level change, any increase in the Administration of Justice Fund allocation amount as authorized in the operative appropriation act, and any increases to be payable from the State Central Services Fund as appropriated in the operative appropriation act, for trial court administrators and official court reporters.

(2) An annual or biennial request for an increase for trial court administrators or official court reporters shall not exceed the total or projected total appropriation as authorized by the General Assembly.

(b) During a fiscal year, the office shall not approve any change in salary level, operating expense, or other distribution for trial court administrators which exceeds the actual or projected appropriation available for trial court administrators or for court reporters which exceeds the actual or projected appropriation available for court reporters.

(c) In order for the General Assembly to make an informed decision on any appropriation increase request, the office shall include with any request for an appropriation increase for trial court administrators or court reporters that exceeds the previous fiscal year total appropriation the following information:

(1) A letter explaining the purpose or reason for the requested appropriation increase along with the total dollar amount requested, the position-level change or salary increase requested, and the funding source of

the increase;

(2) A report that includes:

(A) Current salaries and salaries from previous fiscal years;

(B) Current years of service;

(C) A list of salary increases received by an employee during the current or previous fiscal year; and

(D) The requested increase in salary and match for each trial court administrator or court reporter; and

(3) A copy of the rules, policies, or procedures established or utilized by the office in conjunction with the Arkansas Judicial Council, Inc., that are used to determine current salaries and salary increases for trial court administrators or court reporters.

SECTION 9. 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 10. 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 11. 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.