

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

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Fiscal Session, 2024

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1003

By: Joint Budget Committee

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR EXPENSES OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT FOR THE AUDITOR OF STATE - GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS, ARKANSAS SENATE AND ARKANSAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

THE GENERAL APPROPRIATION ACT FOR THE 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - AUDITOR OF STATE DISBURSEMENTS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Auditor of State, to be payable from the Constitutional Officers Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the Auditor of State - General Appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

| ITEM | FISCAL YEAR |
|--|-------------------------|
| <u>NO.</u> | <u>2024-2025</u> |
| (01) SPECIAL/RECALLED JUDGES FOR THE CIRCUIT COURTS | \$350,000 |
| (02) TRIAL JUDGES EXPENSES | 400,000 |
| (03) DISTRICT JUDGES TRAVEL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT | <u>80,000</u> |
| TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED | <u><u>\$830,000</u></u> |



SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. There is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas House of Representatives, to be payable from the Constitutional Officers Fund, for reimbursements to Representatives for interim expenses incurred as authorized by law of the Arkansas House of Representatives for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

| ITEM <u>NO.</u> | FISCAL YEAR <u>2024-2025</u> |
|---|---------------------------------|
| (01) INTERIM EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENTS FOR REPRESENTATIVES | <u>\$368,000</u> |

SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION - ARKANSAS SENATE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Arkansas Senate, to be payable from the Constitutional Officers Fund, for reimbursements to Senators for interim expenses incurred as authorized by law of the Arkansas Senate for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

| ITEM <u>NO.</u> | FISCAL YEAR <u>2024-2025</u> |
|--|---------------------------------|
| (01) INTERIM EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENTS FOR SENATORS | <u>\$200,000</u> |

SECTION 4. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. DISBURSING OFFICER. The Auditor of State shall be disbursing officer for the funds appropriated for Auditor of State Disbursements herein.

SECTION 5. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. SENATE DISBURSEMENTS. The Secretary of the Senate shall be disbursing officer for the funds appropriated for Interim Expense Reimbursements for Senators herein.

SECTION 6. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. HOUSE DISBURSEMENTS. The Chief of Staff or his designee of the House of

Representatives shall be disbursing officer for the funds appropriated for Interim Expense Reimbursements for Representatives herein.

SECTION 7. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. HOUSE INTERIM EXPENSE DISBURSEMENTS. The appropriations authorized for House of Representatives shall be used for making reimbursements for interim expenses incurred by members of the House of Representatives.

SECTION 8. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. SENATE INTERIM EXPENSE DISBURSEMENTS. The appropriations authorized for Arkansas Senate shall be used for making reimbursements for interim expenses incurred by members of the Senate.

SECTION 9. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. LEGISLATIVE INSTITUTE. Members of the preceding General Assembly and the newly elected members of the House of Representatives and Senate shall be eligible to attend the biennial Institute of Legislative Procedure and shall be entitled, upon filing claim therefore, to per diem in the amount fixed by law for members of the General Assembly to receive for attendance at Legislative sessions, for each day in attending the biennial Institute of Legislative Procedure plus mileage for traveling from their place of residence to the biennial Institute of Legislative Procedure and return.

SECTION 10. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. JUDICIAL DISBURSEMENTS. The Auditor of State shall be disbursing officer for the funds appropriated for Travel Expense Reimbursements for Judges herein. Disbursement of funds shall be subject to review by the Auditor of State for accuracy and consistency with applicable travel guidelines. Any request for reimbursements under the District Judges Travel Expense Reimbursement line item must be submitted to the Auditor of State within sixty (60) days of end date for the underlying travel or expense.

SECTION 11. 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 12. 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, 2024 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, 2024 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, 2024.