

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

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Fiscal Session, 2024

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1066

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 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT - OIL AND GAS COMMISSION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT - OIL AND GAS COMMISSION APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - OIL AND GAS COMMISSION. There is hereby established for the Department of Energy and Environment - Oil and Gas Commission for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum	Maximum Annual
			No. of Employees	Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2024-2025
(1)	U045U	OIL & GAS DIRECTOR	1	GRADE SE01
(2)	D015C	STATE NETWORK ENGINEER	1	GRADE IT07
(3)	D040C	GIS ANALYST	1	GRADE IT06
(4)	D052C	SOFTWARE SUPPORT ANALYST	1	GRADE IT05



(5)	D071C COMPUTER SUPPORT ANALYST	1	GRADE IT03
(6)	B008N SENIOR PETROLEUM ENGINEER	2	GRADE GS12
(7)	B014N SENIOR PETROLEUM GEOLOGIST	3	GRADE GS11
(8)	G063C E&E BRANCH MANAGER	2	GRADE GS10
(9)	B042C ENGINEER	1	GRADE GS09
(10)	B050C E&E INSPECTOR SUPERVISOR II	1	GRADE GS08
(11)	C037C ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST	3	GRADE GS06
(12)	X082C E&E INSPECTOR II	9	GRADE GS06
(13)	C056C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST III	3	GRADE GS04
(14)	X098C OIL & GAS TECHNICIAN	2	GRADE GS04
(15)	C073C ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST II	<u>3</u>	GRADE GS03
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	34	

SECTION 2. EXTRA HELP - OIL AND GAS COMMISSION. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Energy and Environment - Oil and Gas Commission for the 2024-2025 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: six (6) 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 - OIL AND GAS COMMISSION - OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Energy and Environment, to be payable from the Oil and Gas Commission Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Energy and Environment - Oil and Gas Commission - Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$1,900,107
(02) EXTRA HELP	60,000
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	705,017
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	887,197

(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	40,000
(C) PROF. FEES	25,000
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	160,000
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(05) POLLUTION CONTROL	275,000
(06) REFUNDS/REIMBURSEMENTS	100,000
(07) DATA PROCESSING SERVICES	348,217
(08) INTERSTATE OIL COMPACT	35,000
(09) GEOLOGICAL RESEARCH	110,000
(10) UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL	100,000
(11) GROUNDWATER PROTECTION	12,500
(12) ENERGY EDUCATION	<u>30,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$4,788,038</u></u>

SECTION 4. APPROPRIATION - OIL AND GAS COMMISSION - REFUNDS AND REIMBURSEMENTS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Energy and Environment, to be payable from cash funds as defined by Arkansas Code 19-4-801, for refunds and reimbursements of the Department of Energy and Environment - Oil and Gas Commission - Refunds and Reimbursements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>
(01) REFUNDS/REIMBURSEMENTS	<u><u>\$200,000</u></u>

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION - OIL AND GAS COMMISSION - WELL PLUGGING PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Energy and Environment, to be payable from the Abandoned and Orphaned Well Plugging Fund, for well plugging program expenses of the Department of Energy and Environment - Oil and Gas Commission - Well Plugging Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

ITEM	FISCAL YEAR
<u>NO.</u>	<u>2024-2025</u>
(01) WELL PLUGGING EXPENSES	<u><u>\$12,500,000</u></u>

SECTION 6. REGULAR SALARIES - OFFICE OF THE STATE GEOLOGIST. There is hereby established for the Department of Energy and Environment - Office of the State Geologist for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2024-2025
(1)	U039U	STATE GEOLOGIST	1	GRADE SE01
(2)	D040C	GIS ANALYST	1	GRADE IT06
(3)	D044C	SYSTEMS ANALYST	1	GRADE IT05
(4)	D062C	DATABASE ANALYST	1	GRADE IT04
(5)	D078C	GIS TECHNICIAN	2	GRADE IT02
(6)	B013N	ASST STATE GEOLOGIST	1	GRADE GS12
(7)	B014N	SENIOR PETROLEUM GEOLOGIST	1	GRADE GS11
(8)	B035C	GEOLOGY SUPERVISOR	5	GRADE GS09
(9)	B043C	PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGIST	4	GRADE GS08
(10)	B051C	GEOLOGIST	1	GRADE GS07
(11)	C022C	BUSINESS OPERATIONS SPECIALIST	1	GRADE GS05
(12)	C056C	ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST III	<u>1</u>	GRADE GS04
		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	20	

SECTION 7. EXTRA HELP - OFFICE OF THE STATE GEOLOGIST. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Energy and Environment - Office of the State Geologist for the 2024-2025 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: thirteen (13) 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 8. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF THE STATE GEOLOGIST - OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Energy and Environment, to be payable from the Oil and Gas Commission Fund, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Energy and Environment - Office of

the State Geologist - Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$1,208,989
(02) EXTRA HELP	11,600
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	431,660
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	234,937
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	4,000
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	0
(05) WATER QUALITY PROGRAM	20,085
(06) STREAM GAUGING	23,000
(07) GROUND WATER SURVEY	32,980
(08) MINERAL EXPLORATION	<u>26,000</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$1,993,251</u></u>

SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF THE STATE GEOLOGIST - MAP RESALE PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Energy and Environment, to be payable from the Geology Map Resale Revolving Fund, for operating expenses of the Department of Energy and Environment - Office of the State Geologist - Map Resale Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025
(01) RESALE REVOLVING FUND	<u><u>\$49,000</u></u>

SECTION 10. REGULAR SALARIES - OFFICE OF THE STATE GEOLOGIST - STATE GEOLOGIC MAPPING PROGRAM. There is hereby established for the Department of Energy and Environment - Office of the State Geologist - State Geologic Mapping Program for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2024-2025
(1)	B051C	GEOLOGIST	<u>1</u>	GRADE GS07
		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	1	

SECTION 11. EXTRA HELP - OFFICE OF THE STATE GEOLOGIST - STATE GEOLOGIC MAPPING PROGRAM. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Energy and Environment - Office of the State Geologist - State Geologic Mapping Program for the 2024-2025 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: six (6) 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 - OFFICE OF THE STATE GEOLOGIST - STATE GEOLOGIC MAPPING PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Energy and Environment, to be payable from the federal funds as designated by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Energy and Environment - Office of the State Geologist - State Geologic Mapping Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$43,660
(02) EXTRA HELP	48,779
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	21,443
(04) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	77,742
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0

(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$191,624</u></u>

SECTION 13. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF THE STATE GEOLOGIST - STATE FARM GRANT - EARTHQUAKE AWARENESS PROGRAM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Energy and Environment, 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 to increase earthquake awareness throughout the state of the Department of Energy and Environment - Office of the State Geologist - State Farm Grant - Earthquake Awareness Program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

ITEM <u>NO.</u>	FISCAL YEAR <u>2024-2025</u>
(01) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	\$6,505
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	0
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$6,505</u></u>

SECTION 14. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF THE STATE GEOLOGIST - GEOLOGY MUSEUM. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Energy and Environment, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for museum expenses of the Department of Energy and Environment - Office of the State Geologist - Geology Museum for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

ITEM <u>NO.</u>	FISCAL YEAR <u>2024-2025</u>
(01) MUSEUM EXPENSES	<u><u>\$1,125</u></u>

SECTION 15. REGULAR SALARIES - OFFICE OF THE STATE GEOLOGIST - GEOLOGICAL RESEARCH - LANDSLIDE/SINKHOLE. There is hereby established for the Department of Energy and Environment - Office of the State Geologist -

Geological Research - Landslide/Sinkhole for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Class Code	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2024-2025
(1)	B043C	PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGIST	<u>1</u>	GRADE GS08
		MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	1	

SECTION 16. EXTRA HELP - OFFICE OF THE STATE GEOLOGIST - GEOLOGICAL RESEARCH - LANDSLIDE/SINKHOLE. There is hereby authorized, for the Department of Energy and Environment - Office of the State Geologist - Geological Research - Landslide/Sinkhole for the 2024-2025 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: two (2) 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 17. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF THE STATE GEOLOGIST - GEOLOGICAL RESEARCH - LANDSLIDE/SINKHOLE. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Energy and Environment, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Energy and Environment - Office of the State Geologist - Geological Research - Landslide/Sinkhole for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$49,011
(02) EXTRA HELP	27,328
(03) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	21,015
(04) GEOLOGICAL RESEARCH	<u>143,762</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$241,116</u>

SECTION 18. APPROPRIATION - OFFICE OF THE STATE GEOLOGIST - CASH OPERATIONS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Department of Energy and Environment, to be payable from the cash fund deposited in the State Treasury as determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State, for personal services and operating expenses of the Department of Energy and Environment - Office of the State Geologist - Cash Operations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025
(01) EXTRA HELP	\$25,000
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	1,938
(03) MAINT. & GEN. OPERATION	
(A) OPER. EXPENSE	300,016
(B) CONF. & TRAVEL	0
(C) PROF. FEES	0
(D) CAP. OUTLAY	275,000
(E) DATA PROC.	<u>0</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u><u>\$601,954</u></u>

SECTION 19. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. OIL AND GAS COMMISSION FUND TRANSFER. The Oil and Gas Commission, after receiving review from the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State and reporting to the Arkansas Legislative Council or Joint Budget Committee, may request the Chief Fiscal Officer to transfer up to \$1,000,000 per year on his or her books and the books of the State Treasurer and the Auditor of the State from the Oil and Gas Commission Fund to the Abandoned and Orphaned Well Plugging Fund.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from July 1, ~~2023~~ 2024 through June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025.

SECTION 20. 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 21. 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 22. 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.