

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

SENATE BILL 349

By: Senator Gilmore
By: Representative Gazaway

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONAL SERVICES FOR THE VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATORS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT FOR THE AUDITOR OF STATE - VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATORS APPROPRIATION FOR THE 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR.

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

SECTION 1. REGULAR SALARIES - VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATORS. There is hereby established for the Auditor of State - Victim Assistance Coordinators for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the following maximum number of regular employees.

Item No.	Title	Maximum No. of Employees	Maximum Annual Salary Rate Fiscal Year 2025-2026
(1)	SENIOR VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR II	6	GRADE GS11
(2)	SENIOR VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR I	4	GRADE GS10
(3)	VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR SPEC	19	GRADE GS09
(4)	VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR II	43	GRADE GS07
(5)	VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR I	<u>38</u>	GRADE GS05
	MAX. NO. OF EMPLOYEES	110	



SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATORS. There is hereby appropriated, to the Auditor of State, to be payable from the State Central Services Fund, for personal services of the Victim Assistance Coordinators for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, the following:

ITEM NO.	FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
(01) REGULAR SALARIES	\$3,809,910
(02) PERSONAL SERVICES MATCHING	<u>1,523,964</u>
TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<u>\$5,333,874</u>

SECTION 3. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATORS. (a) (1) Effective October 1, 2025, all victim assistance coordinators employed by an elected or appointed prosecuting attorney shall become state employees.

(2) The number of positions authorized by this Act equal the total number of county and grant funded victim assistance coordinator positions in place as of January 1, 2025.

(3) The initial allocation of the state funded victim assistance coordinators positions for fiscal year 2026 shall be determined by the Prosecution Coordination Commission and shall be consistent with the number of positions in place for each judicial district as of January 1, 2025.

(b) The entry level and maximum salaries of victim assistance coordinators shall be comparable with that established by the Uniform Classification and Compensation Act for the appropriate grade established for each position.

(c) The victim assistance coordinators shall be subject to the Uniform Attendance and Leave Policy Act as administered by the elected prosecuting attorney by whom they are employed.

(d) Victim assistance coordinators who convert from county or grant funded employment to state employment and are employed from the effective date of the Act shall have their length of service with the county recognized for purposes of accrual rates for sick and annual leave.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from October 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

SECTION 4. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. EXPENSES OF VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATORS. Each county or counties within a judicial district shall continue to bear the responsibility and expenses of providing the cost of facilities, equipment, and supplies, at sufficient levels of operation, but not less than amounts appropriated by ordinance in effect January 1, 2025.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from October 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

SECTION 5. SPECIAL LANGUAGE. NOT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE ARKANSAS CODE NOR PUBLISHED SEPARATELY AS SPECIAL, LOCAL AND TEMPORARY LAW. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the General Assembly, in the transition to a state-funded victim assistance system, to provide an appropriation and adequate level of victim services in all areas of the state. It is recognized by the General Assembly that in many areas of the state, resources have not been available to support victim services at the necessary level to comply with statutory requirements and other duties as assigned by the prosecuting attorney. With the transition of local funding of victim assistance coordinator salaries to state funding, it is not the intent of the General Assembly to adversely affect those districts whose system has been working well or to implement a system which is too inflexible to respond to the needs of each judicial district. Therefore, the Prosecution Coordination Commission is charged with the responsibility of assisting in the maintenance of a system which equitably serves all areas of the state by providing quality victim assistance coordinators.

The provisions of this section shall be in effect only from October 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

SECTION 6. 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 7. 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 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This act is effective on and after October 1, 2025